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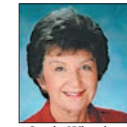
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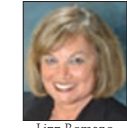
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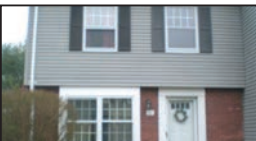
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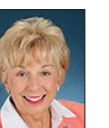
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QUOTE OF NOTE:

"It feed their souls. This completely enhances the growth mindset."

— Robyn Muir

See story page 7

ON THE COVER

Tom Brown, Rob O'Connor and Kevin Sullivan are the team spearheading efforts to increase awareness of bicycle and pedestrian safety in town called Bike-Walk Wethersfield.

Photo by Lisa Brisson
See story page 24

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Remembering Thayer Chase

Plaque will be dedicated with tree on Broad Street Green

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Photos courtesy of Philip Lohman

Jim Civitello, the town mason, adds the finishing touches.

Weld Thayer Chase was many things: landscape architect, major player in the development of the Merritt Parkway, plant and tree expert and local volunteer. For all of those reasons, and more, his memory was honored by the Village Improvement Association and now that honor will be enhanced with the installation of a new plaque.

A purple, also called copper, beech tree was planted in his honor several years ago but there was nothing to indicate its significance to passersby. The VIA will officially unveil a plaque accompanying the tree following annual Arbor Day festivities at 9:30 a.m. April 29. The stone was donated by Mathew Donovan of Cedar Mountain Stone & Mulch.

"Thayer was a member of the Village Improvement Association as well as many other civic groups,"

VIA member and spokesman Philip Lohman said. "He was an advocate of naturalistic planting. Thayer's wish was that somebody make a planting guide to the Broad Street Green."

Former residents Arthur and Merle Nacht did just that after he died. The beech tree was planted in Chase's memory but there was nothing to identify it until now.

"How would anybody know?" Lohman asked.

He suggested adding a plaque alongside the tree and his fellow members concurred. Town officials also gave their approval and a town crew attached the plaque to the stone and put in in place.

Sal Zocco of Zocco Memorials in West Hartford created the plaque and town mason Jim Civitello handled the placement of the stone marker.

It notes that Chase was a "landscape architect extraordinaire" and cites his love of trees, admiration for Frederick Law Olmsted, work with the state

Department of Transportation and service as landscape architect for the Merritt Parkway, and proud Wethersfield resident and volunteer.

Olmsted was a Hartford native who became famous for designing numerous parks and college settings around the country, the most prominent being Central Park in New York City.

Chase – "Thayer" to those who knew him – died in March 2003 at the age of 94. He was born in Newport, R.I., and took an early interest in landscape design. In addition to his work with the DOT he served with the state Parks and Forest Commission and designed many of those state properties.

He was a charter member and former president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Even into his 90s, he was an active member of the Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Village Improvement Association, Shade Tree Commission, Silas Deane Highway Task Force and Wethersfield Historical Society.

Chase also served on the town Planning and Zoning Commission and was part of the Robert G. Low Woodcarvers Club that carved the town seal. His volunteer efforts extended to serving as a deacon at the First Church of Christ in Wethersfield.

He played a significant role in the design and development of the Merritt Parkway. The book "The Merritt Parkway" by Bruce Radde (Yale University Press) describes how Chase and another civil engineer named George Dunkelberger "elevated the project from engineering excellence to an integration of all its parts. The aesthetic experience they produced combined architecture, sculpture and landscaping.

"The results of their cooperative venture – and especially Chase's marvelously sensitive contribution – can be seen in before-and-after photos of the parkway: the plantings even in their youthful state give focus to the man-made forms. Consciously

or not, they created not just a great highway, but also a great work of art."

During his teenage years in Newport he worked on the grounds of its great estates. Chase was brought aboard the parkway project by Earl Wood, whom the book describes as the engineer in charge of landscaping and roadside development.

Chase studied Botany at Rhode Island State College and did post-graduate work in the new field of landscape architecture at Massachusetts Agricultural College. This was during the Great Depression when jobs were scarce.

He decided to visit Europe and traveled by bicycle to study its parks and gardens. The book notes that he was hired by the state Highway Department in 1935 at the age of 26 as its first trained landscape architect and assigned to Wood.

Wood decided to turn over to the young Chase the design for the entire landscaping theme stretching 38

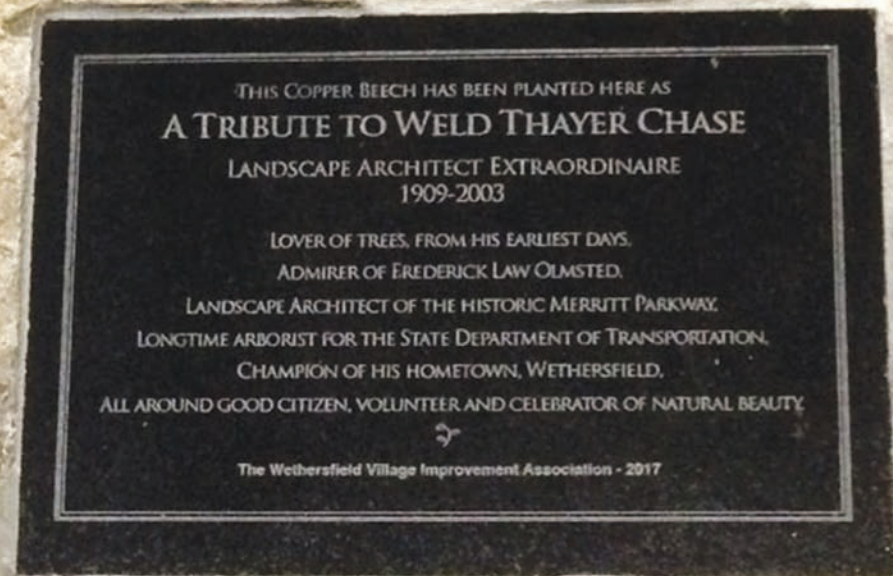
miles. Chase personally placed the stakes – a total of 47,708 – for each new tree or shrub and made efforts to have the engineers save existing trees whenever possible.

In some cases, small shrubs and saplings were dug up, placed in a temporary nursery, and then replanted after construction was completed. Chase and Wood were in agreement that all plants used along the parkway would be native species, a belief that was not shared by everyone involved with the project.

The idea was to recreate the environment that was disrupted by construction. Radde's book cites mountain laurel, dogwoods, gray birch, red cedar, various oaks and maples, other native hardwoods and conifers, azaleas, black alder and bayberry as some examples of the native species that were either planted or replanted.

A September 1999 story in Wethersfield LIFE by retired editor Joyce Rossignol reflected upon Chase's long and illustrious

A close-up view of the new plaque.



Photos courtesy of Philip Lohman

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His local efforts included plantings along the north side of Cove Park, the forested slope behind the pond at Mill Woods Park and the gardens around the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.

career and his passion for this town. It noted his persistence when he wanted to get something done to beautify the community and that town officials held him in such high regard that they seldom denied his requests.

His local efforts included plantings along the north side of Cove Park, the forested slope behind the pond at Mill Woods Park and the gardens around the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center.

Chase was a charter member of the town's Shade Tree Commission

as well as the Village Improvement Association. He also fought to protect the Broad Street Green from overuse. He not only designed the landscaping and selected the plants, he could often be found weeding or clearing out brush.

He is credited with joining forces with the late Eleanor Buck Wolf, after whom the town nature center is named, and the Jaycees to save Wintergreen Woods. He also created a trail map and did additional map work for the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. **WL**



Photos courtesy of Philip Lohman

Town employees set in place the memorial stone and plaque on the Broad Street Green honoring the late Weld Thayer Chase.

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Photos by Mark Jahne

Owen Carey and Kemal Huseinovic work on a PowerPoint presentation.

LIFE

in the classroom

Students are exploring the possibilities in pilot program

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Any elementary school principal knows that carving extra instructional time out of an already crowded day is not easy. But Glen Horter may have found a way.

The principal of Charles Wright School has wanted to do that for some time but until now the only option was to pull students out of band or orchestra and he didn't want to do that because those are important parts of the educational experience. So he came up with a PILOT program called "Exploring the Possibilities."



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Photo by Mark Jahne

Art teacher Robyn Muir shows a group of students how to mix paint to make tints. Her class is one of the more popular selections in the Exploratory program. Gathered around her are Madison Griffin, Sara Alexander, Kyle Kunzelman, Gabe Frazzini Kendrick and Jack Adams.

Classes called "Exploratories" are being tried out in grades 5-6. Students are allowed to sign up for extra instruction in areas they enjoy or would like to achieve improvement.

"Not everyone is in band and orchestra, so we thought we could move their block into when teachers have planning time," Horter said.

"Art and physical education have been after me to provide more enrichment."

The fifth phase of exploratory classes began April 6. There are nine options: orchestra, band, student government, physical education, art, authors/reporting, keyboarding, slides and tutoring. Students can also take lessons to help them

referee sporting activities during recess or on how to develop a positive mindset.

More than 20 students signed up for extra art one recent day. Teacher Robyn Muir showed them how to combine paint colors to create tints.

"We're doing a color theory exploration," she said.

"I think it's great," Muir added.

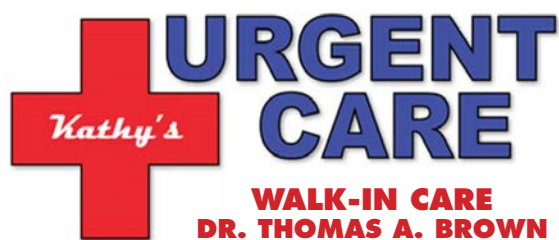
"It gives them an extra opportunity for art, physical education, whatever they need. It feed their souls. This completely enhances the growth mindset."

One of the Exploratories now offered is keyboarding. Horter considers this a crucial skill because all standardized tests are now conducted online and good keyboarding skills help children complete these tests in an appropriate length of time.

"We started offering keyboarding as the first alternative," he said. "We offered students choices once the other electives started."

Previously this only happened during their lunch period.

An emphasis is placed on laying the foundation to learn the technology of the future so some students work on media presentation skills. They create PowerPoint



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“It feed their souls. This completely enhances the growth mindset.”

—Robyn Muir

presentations that are later shown on the large TV in the main lobby.

“Media presentation falls under the arts standards. It’s an art form,” Horter said.

He noted that schools need to prepare students for a world of technology that doesn’t even exist yet, but will by the time they are young adults.

All of the students at Charles Wright have personal Chromebooks. Older students often assist the younger ones.

Sixth-graders are being trained how to run the school’s upcoming field day. Horter looks for ways to incorporate leadership training in as many of these Exploratories as possible.

“By the time we go into a second session, the kids who really like it ... become mentors

to the new kids coming in,” he said. “It keeps expanding and growing into what our school needs to be.”

Student reporters now contribute to his weekly newsletter. That’s good for developing their writing skills. The principal said all of this has received the unanimous support of the teaching staff.

“Our goal is to spark interest and let them explore,” he said.

Offering Exploratories in six-week segments means students can either try different things or keep going back to what they enjoy the most. **WL**

Amina Ahmetovic and Aidan Cook play tetherball in the gym during their extra physical education time.



Photo by Mark Janne

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Difficult fiscal times

Bridges proposes 6.53 percent municipal budget increase

by Mark Jahne
Editor

“P”erplexing” is the word Town Manager Jeff Bridges used in the preamble to his proposed 2017-2018 municipal budget. “Conundrum” appears soon after.

Those two words say a lot about the challenges he faced in trying to craft a budget in these highly uncertain fiscal times. The result is a \$104.6 million spending plan that represents a 6.53 percent increase in taxes come July 1. This includes a Road Improvement Fund allocation of \$763,768.

Approximately 55 percent of the budget is for public education; most towns in the state pay more than 50 percent for schools.

If the budget is approved as submitted – an unlikely outcome – it would result in a mill rate of 40.70 for real estate and personal property, up more than two points from the current rate.

State law caps the mill rate for motor vehicles at 32 – the cap is 37 mills for the current year – and the governor’s proposed budget contains revenue sharing funds to offset the lost motor vehicle tax revenue.

But that number is based upon 2015 mill rates across Connecticut so, even if Wethersfield receives those funds, the town would still face a shortfall of more than \$500,000 in motor vehicle revenue that simply would be shifted over to the property tax.

The bottom line is the average home in town with two cars of average value would pay an additional \$365.90 in taxes next fiscal year.

The average sale price of a home in town in 2016 was \$255,620. The average taxable value of such a home is \$169,400.

Bridges presented the budget to the Town Council at its April 3 meeting and now those nine elected officials must decide where to add, cut or

otherwise adjust the numbers before passing a final plan by the town charter required deadline of May 15.

The town manager told the assembled councilors that the good news is that Gov. Dannel Malloy’s proposed state budget places Wethersfield ahead of 130 other Connecticut cities and towns as far as state aid. It is one of the few towns that might receive more money next fiscal year than it is receiving now.

But he quickly added that Malloy’s budget is under review by the legislature and nobody believes that it will be adopted as originally presented.

This means the amount of state aid could be reduced. How much? Nobody knows. Hence the challenge of crafting a local budget when the state aid – a substantial portion of every city and town budget – remains in flux.

“It’s a very chaotic time in budgets across the state,” Bridges said.

The state does not have to adopt its own budget until weeks after all 169 municipalities. Bridges is doing what every other town manager and first selectman in the state is doing – making his best guess based upon current numbers and feedback from the town’s legislative delegation.

Spending increases in his proposed budget cover such areas as public education, the third and final bond to finance the high school renovation project, pension and post-employment obligations, contractual requirements, fuel and utility increases.

“The debt service on the high school is another big driver,” he said.

Councilor Michael Rell asked when that debt service will begin to decline. Bridges answered that this should take place in a couple of years.

A major new factor on the expense side of the budget is the state’s plan to resolve its more than

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\$1.5 billion deficit by, in part, unloading the cost of public teacher pensions onto cities and towns. This has, until now, always been a state function.

That mandate alone will cost local taxpayers more than \$2.8 million. Bridges pointed out that his budget simply calls for maintaining the current level of services without any new initiatives.

"The teachers' pension is what's driving this number," Bridges said of the 6.53 percent increase. "Retiree health is getting to be an issue."

One way to offset increased costs and avoid or limit tax increases is growth of the grand list of taxable property. It went up this past year, but less than 1 percent, thus offering limited help.

Proposed spending for public education in 2017-2018 is up \$1.6 million from the current budget.

Proposed spending for town govern-

money for local schools.

"We are so dependent on the property tax. It's our only viable revenue stream," the town manager said.

He is not factoring in any money for a contingency account demanded by the Metropolitan District to cover the possibility that the city of Hartford may default on its payments to the district, which provides water and sewer services to eight member towns.

The MDC wants the town to give it \$652,100 for that purpose. At least one other district member – Newington – has also opted not to contribute to this reserve fund.

"We did not include the MDC reserve assessment to the town," Bridges said.

Because of all the uncertainty regarding the state, Councilor Anthony Spinella asked if the town could wait until after its char-

"It's a very chaotic time in budgets across the state."

-Town Manager Jeff Bridges

ment and other non-educational uses is up \$4.9 million. Bridges is suggesting a cut of \$152,000 in money allotted for road improvements.

A chart provided by the town manager shows that the mill rate has increased from 32.43 in 2007 to 40.70 in his proposal for the next fiscal year.

Salaries and benefits are always an issue in any municipal budget. Retiree benefits are a growing financial challenge for the town, Bridges said, because the town gives these contracted benefits both to the retiree and to the person who takes his or her place.

"There are no new positions in this budget," he said.

Bridges used the municipal aid figures provided in the governor's proposed state budget – figures that almost certainly will change, perhaps dramatically.

Compared with the current state budget, Malloy's 2017-2018 numbers would provide the town with an additional \$155,000 in PILOT funds for state buildings that are tax exempt.

His budget would provide more than \$933,000 to make up for the aforementioned lost motor vehicle tax revenue and \$413,000 in municipal revenue sharing. There would also be an increase of nearly \$1 million in Education Cost Sharing

ter-mandated budget adoption date to finalize its spending plan. Bridges responded that this could be challenged in court and, if the court determined that the budget was illegally adopted, then all the tax bills could be voided.

Mayor Paul Montinieri was asked for his initial reaction to the proposed budget. While saying he understands why Bridges crafted it the way he did, the bottom line is simply too high.

"My overall reaction to the budget is it's very disconcerting. It's too significant an increase," Montinieri said. "The largest moving parts are unknown. We have a lot of work yet to do."

He further stated that a tax rate of 40 mills is simply too much.

He added residents want to see less spending. Factors that concern the mayor include the transfer of the teachers' pension, the capping of motor vehicle taxes and the lack of any action by the state that would provide property tax relief.

"We understand the state has a problem. We're going to take a hard look at all of those line items," Montinieri said.

He said the school board presented the council with a prudent spending plan but it is not immune from cuts because schools make up more than half of the total budget. **WL**

Combining activities

The first week of June will be celebrated as 'Wethersfield Weekend'

by Mark Jahne
Editor

The first weekend of June promises to be a busy time in town. It starts with the Mayor's Charity Ball on Friday, followed by the annual chamber of commerce fireworks display, ARTMarket and historic house tour on Saturday, and ends with the Richard M. Keane Foundation 5K Race on Sunday.

Package it all together and you've got what organizers are calling "Wethersfield Weekend." The streets of Old Wethersfield will be teeming with activity.

It starts at 6 p.m. Friday, June 2, with the second annual Mayor's Charity Ball at Wethersfield Country Club. Last year's inaugural ball raised \$16,000 that was donated to the town Social and Youth Services Department to help feed needy families and individuals in town.

Proceeds from this year's ball are intended to continue the weekend meals backpack program for children established this past year, create a new initiative to help senior citizens who have food deficiencies, and seed

Photo by Lisa Brisson

The annual fireworks display at Cove Park always attracts a large crowd for the food, music and other activities leading up to the pyrotechnics.

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Teams of children are among the many groups that participate in the annual Richard M. Keane Foundation 5K Run in Old Wethersfield.

a scholarship fund to be administered by social services to help local children attend preschool.

The gala evening will feature a silent auction, live auction, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$250 for patrons.

Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor may contact Cristina Harris at cristina@desopo.com or Annie Dillon at annie.dillon@raveis.com.

com. For ticket reservations contact Cindy Greenblatt at 860-563-6762 or cgreen12@yahoo.com.

"We're promoting all these things together," Ken Lesser said.

He is co-chairman of the ball. Lesser said the town is already a popular tourist destination and this weekend of multiple attractions will only help draw more attention to all that it has to offer.

"We're going to make this an annual thing," Leslie Civitello added. "We want to showcase our community."

She is the executive director of the Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce. The chamber presents its annual fireworks spectacular at Cove Park on Saturday preceded by live music and other family oriented activities.

More than 8,000 people attended the fireworks show this past year, a long-dormant activity the chamber brought back to life in 2014.

The Wethersfield Library will be on hand to kick off its summer reading program. There will be live music performed on the Showmobile stage as well as a performance by the Colonel John Chester Fire and Drum Corps. A chicken wing eating contest and disc jockey are also part of the entertainment.

The fun starts at 5 p.m. with an estimated pyrotechnics launch at 9:15 p.m. Anyone interested in being a sponsor of this event may contact the chamber at 860-721-6200 or wethersfield@sbcglobal.net.

The Wethersfield Historical Society will conduct its "Living With History" tours of old houses still in use as residences. Dorene Ciarcia, chairman of this event, also serves on the society's board of directors.

She said this tour is offered every couple of years or so as a fundraiser to support the society's operating budget and educational programming. Tickets are \$30 in advance

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**“It sets Wethersfield apart,
Old Wethersfield in particular.
It all contributes to a sense of place.”**

–Dorene Ciarcia

or \$35 the day of the tour. They can be purchased online, at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center at 200 Main St. or at WHS headquarters in the Old Academy at 150 Main St.

This year’s tour features four homes on Main Street and Hartford Avenue as well as two manses belonging to Trinity Episcopal Church. Ciarcia said they always hold this event in June, but rarely at the beginning of the month.

Moving it up to be part of Wethersfield Weekend made a lot of sense. She likes the fact that the three days will shine a spotlight on

so many of the town’s cultural attractions.

“It’s nice to have this work in tandem. That’s what makes a successful town,” Ciarcia said. “It sets Wethersfield apart, Old Wethersfield in particular. It all contributes to a sense of place.”

Another appealing factor is that people can walk to most of events. Also part of the weekend is the Wethersfield Academy for the Arts ARTMarket from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can buy works of art created by local artists.

The annual Richard M. Keane



This is one of the historic houses still in use as a residence that will be on the annual house tour sponsored by the Wethersfield Historical Society.

Foundation 5K is scheduled to step off at 11 a.m. June 4 from Standish Park. Running clubs and people of all ages register to participate in this event that grows in popularity every year. Call 860-993-7425 or see keane-foundation.org for details.

As always, proceeds will support the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center at the Pitkin Community Center. The entry fee is \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of the race. Wethersfield Elementary Schools Running Club members and other children pay \$5. **WL**

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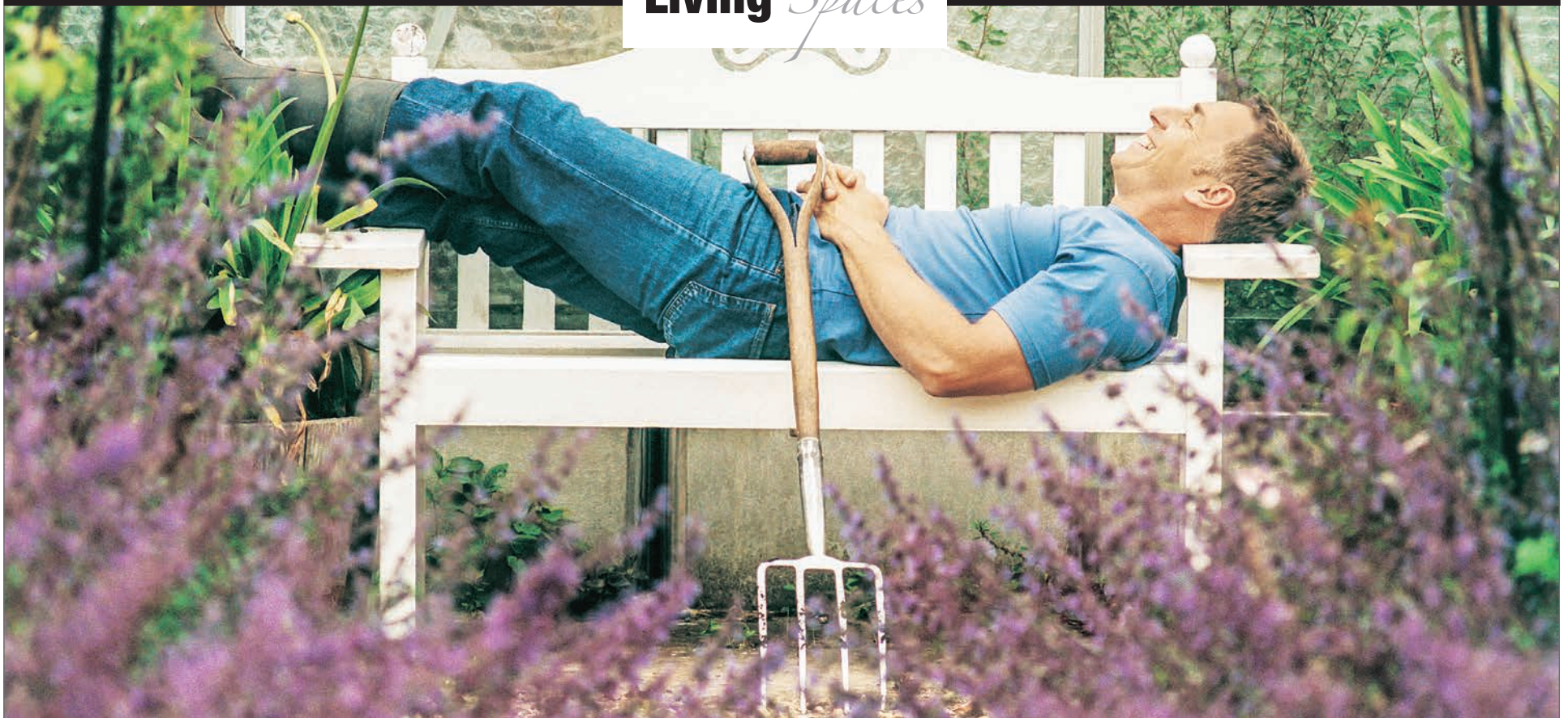




Living spaces Home and Garden

A product of TurleyCT Community Publications | TurleyCT.com | May 2017

Living Spaces



Men who garden

Women aren't the only ones growing flowers

by Lynn Woike
Editor

While most garden clubs are comprised totally of women, some organizations formed around individual plant varieties have many men. Steve Kovack was an honorary member of the West Hartford Garden Club until becoming a full

member about four years ago.

He is its only male member. The Farmington Garden Club has none. Hill and Dale Garden Club in Glastonbury and the Avon Garden Club also have no male members.

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Living Spaces

said Jan Brigham.

Kovack said he grew up on a farm in Pennsylvania, with 200 chickens, three cows, some beef cattle and pigs – and an acre of garden that he began running when he was about 12. When he moved to West Hartford, he planted shade gardens around the house along with taking a community garden plot.

“I grow everything,” he said.

The reason he became involved with the club is because he was taking the master gardener course that required him to do a volunteer project. The West Hartford Garden Club was taking care of the Butler-McCook House and Garden in Hartford and asked him to develop a shade garden. It required him to clear away debris and rip out a lot of ivy, including poison ivy and otherwise “sawing through this forest.”

“The West Hartford Garden Club ladies fell in love with me,” Kovack said, adding that he could be the only man in the club because he thinks “a lot of men get intimidated.”

“In the spring I came back.

Thousands and thousands of bulbs were in blossom. They had been dormant and so they started coming up. That blew my mind. I was part of this creation.”

Kovack went on to help plant

hostas and built a path through the woods.

“I tried to get other men to join, but they just didn’t. They just don’t want to be part of it for some reason. ... The men that I know don’t do much gardening and they’re all very independent.”

He thought perhaps it had to do with the socializing that goes on among women and men not wanting to be part of groups, yet he talked about the friendships that he has formed with a diverse group of men he’s gardened with in the community plot for years.

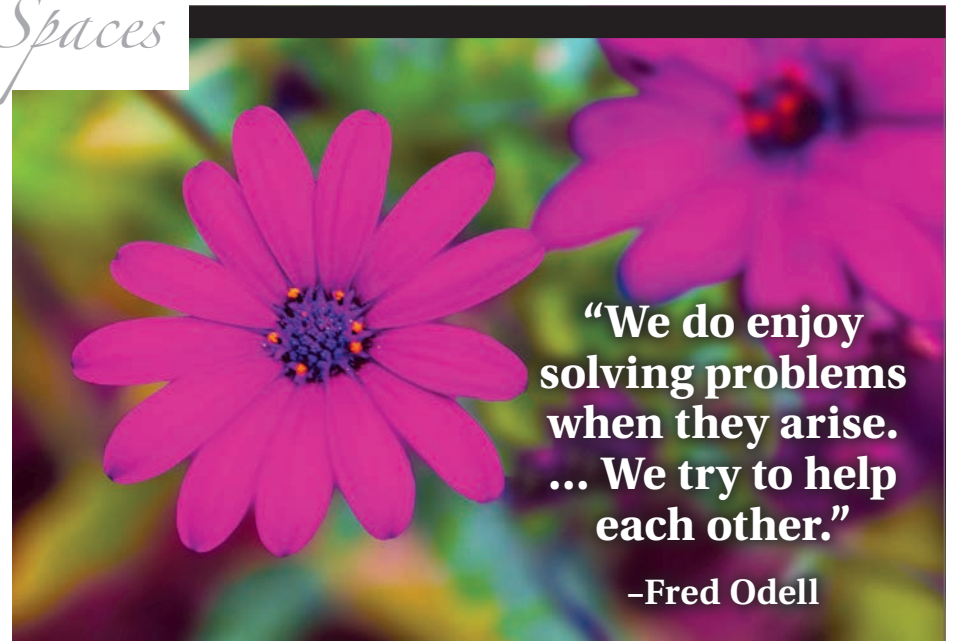
“The garden club is so excited about the community garden, they want to put us on their tour” for 2018, Kovack said.

Although The Gardeners of America/Men’s Garden Clubs of America lists no clubs in Connecticut, there is one just for men: the Men’s Garden Club of Wethersfield. It formed in 1956.

The November Richard Prentice moved into his new home, the gardens were dormant.

“In the spring I was overwhelmed with new growth and didn’t know what to do about it,” he said.

He attended the plant sale held by the club in May and became a



member after that. Now he is the treasurer.

“Sometimes when I mention that I’m in a men’s garden club I’m asked if I’m gay. ... Maybe that’s why few men join. I’ve been to women’s club meetings. They are much more organized. That’s a problem,” he said.

The club belonged to the National Garden Clubs, but was ejected because of its men only membership. While the club hasn’t exactly forbade women to join, it hasn’t recruited women and one that was once sponsored by a member several years ago “got nowhere.”

According to its Facebook page,

the club devotes “its energies to the promotion of the full appreciation of gardening, landscaping and horticultural activities,” promoting “higher garden standards in the community for the benefit of individuals” and instilling “the love of growing plants in the hearts of children, particularly among those for whom opportunities are restricted.”

The club also promotes friendships, civic activities and a general interest in individual, private and community gardens, planting and parks.

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Living Spaces

of the Frank W. Weston Rose Garden, located adjacent to the town hall and library. Members meet Saturday mornings during the growing season to care for the beds. Its annual plant sale the day before Mother's Day draws crowds, both for the hanging baskets and vegetable plants, and also for the "home-grown," a large variety of perennials that have been split from members' gardens.

That's what hooked Fred Odell when he was 35 ... 38 years ago.

He'd done planting at his prior home, so when he saw a sign for the plant sale, he stopped.

"Man," he remembered thinking, "these were the friendliest guys I've ever met."

He ended up going home and getting some plants he'd been growing, bringing them back to the sale. That got him invited to the post-plant sale meeting.

"Within a year, I'm running the plant sale. Then I got to be president," Odell said.

He also became a master gardener.

At 72, he said he's one of the youngest members. Most are retired and older. While most are from Wethersfield, members also come from Glastonbury, Rocky Hill, Cromwell and South Windsor.

"We do enjoy solving problems when they arise. ... We try to help each other," he said, noting that seems to be what was behind the formation of the original group of men – some who were farmers and others in a variety of agricultural occupations.

"They had a group of guys who'd just chat. They were friends. It was very informal. ... They would meet at each other's houses once a month or so."

As more men joined, the club formed. Officers were elected, committees were formed and speakers were featured. Social events got added to the schedule.

Now, rather than corn and tobacco, conversations are more

likely to be about shrubs and lawns, said Odell, who estimated that a third of the club lives in condominiums, "and their gardening is far reduced from what it was, and they're not into homegrown so much anymore."

When the club formed, he said, "There were four or five other gardening clubs and presently there are three women's gardening clubs in town. ... Twice in my 30 years, females have inquired about becoming members, but it's an issue that kind of dies on the vine. It's not something that's on the top of our list. ... None of our wives want any part of us. They do their own thing."

"I'm in many other organizations, and women tend to be detail oriented, very thorough. Men are scattered."

While he said he's "never attempted to join any other garden club," for a while he was a member of the New England Hosta Society and, together with his wife, who he said is "much more of a gardener," he began

a garden club at the lake where they have a summer home.

Tom Mierzejewski and his wife, Jenne McDermott, love gardening and maintain a parklike setting around their home, but their real passion is orchids, which they use to decorate their home's interior.

He supported his wife in founding the Nutmeg State Orchid Society in 2008 – she as the president and he as the treasurer. Of its 200 members, nearly half are men – some who have joined with their wives and some who come alone.

While the median age is about 50, it's a diverse group in both expertise and in age, including a teenage boy.

Hearing most garden clubs have no male members, Mierzejewski was surprised and wondered how clubs went about recruiting members.

The Nutmeg State Orchid Society prides itself on making everyone feel welcome, he said, with name tags, emails and a welcome package. **WL**

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Living Spaces

The benefits of backyard

koi ponds

Koi ponds can make for beautiful additions to landscaped backyards or home gardens. While many people are drawn to koi ponds because of their aesthetic appeal, there are many additional reasons for homeowners to consider installing koi ponds in their backyards.



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Ponds and water gardens can transform yards rather quickly. Ponds can add appeal to otherwise mundane yards and provide eye-catching, relaxing spots to sit and enjoy the scenery.

Koi ponds have recently fallen into a favor with homeowners in North America, but these popular water features date back several centuries to Asia.

Centuries ago, Chinese rice farmers began keeping carp in their rice paddies, and that practice eventually caught on in Japan. The fish started to breed and form slight

color variations. Koi, often referred to as "Nishikigoi," are actually descendants of the common carp, though the koi of today are more brightly hued and ornamental fish than carp.

Koi can become a low-maintenance family pet. These fish tend to grow accustomed to having people around, and will often interact with visitors at the surface of the water. It's not unusual to have koi beg for food or take food from a person's hand. They also may tolerate some light handling.

Another benefit of koi ponds is

that they create a miniature ecosystem within the yard.

When stocked with aquatic plants and other fish that can help keep mosquito larvae and other parasites at bay, they can sustain themselves quite nicely.

Ponds also can attract birds and beneficial insects, such as butterflies and dragonflies. By implementing straight vertical walls on the perimeter of the pond and setting up some natural barriers, homeowners can avoid unwanted predators from disturbing their koi ponds.

Koi ponds also provide some

psychological benefits. The sound of the water can be soothing and relaxing. Sitting by the pond may help alleviate stress, as unwinding next to a pond and watching the fish swim by can help individuals decompress.

Homeowners who have koi ponds may also benefit socially from these eye-catching additions to their landscapes. Homeowners may connect with others who share their passion for koi and water features. This opens up the opportunity to share the landscape and pond with others, building new friends and relationships in the process. **WL**



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Green tips for black thumb gardeners

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

As springtime rolls in and yards turn from muddy brown to fresh green, it can be challenging for those who have a self-described “black thumb” in the garden. With a few simple tips, however, those with gardening difficulties can start to get their plants in shape. Before giving up completely on being able to garden, there are a few questions that should be asked.

“What exactly are you trying to grow? Are you basing it on one experience, or have you repetitively tried different plants in different areas?” said Don Woods, owner of Stonehedge Landscaping and Garden Center in Newington. “There’s usually a reason.”

Woods suggested that for some people it might be necessary to have their soil tested to make sure that it is hospitable for growing.





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Living Spaces

Adding topsoil or compost could help to improve growing conditions.

"I would definitely recommend that they start from the ground up," Peggy Bosco, co-owner of Bosco's Garden Center and Landscaping in Simsbury, advised.

"You want to enrich your soil because that's where your plants get all their nutrients from."

For those who need to improve their soil, Bosco recommended using an organic topsoil as opposed to a synthetic one.

"Every time you dig a hole to put something in the ground, that plant is going to be there for years," she said. "Organic soil would build that base organically as opposed to keeping a synthetic product there."

Another large piece of advice from planting professionals stems from a common problem they have seen with clients.

"Number one, don't overwater," Bruce McCue, owner of McCue Gardens in Wethersfield, said.

While many plants simply require

water, soil and sunlight, too much water can be irreversibly damaging.

"The worst thing is overwatering a plant, actually, because once you rot the root system, you can't bring it back," Bosco said. "Overwatering tends to be worse than underwatering."

There are clues to look for that show a plant is being overwatered, including wilting when the soil is wet, brown leaves and rotting roots. According to Bosco, watching plants to see what they need is a crucial piece of gardening.

"The leaves and the plants will show you when they need water. They're talking to you, you just have to know how to listen," she said. "Everybody that works here is educated in that field. They would tell you how a plant shows you that it's thirsty."

Each of the garden professionals also stressed the importance of knowing what you are planting and where.

"Read the tags as to whether it goes in the sun or shade," McCue said. "A lot of people will put a plant for

shade in the sun and a plant for sun in the shade, and that's not a good environment for them to grow."

Bosco agreed looking at a garden or yard's specific conditions is integral to the success or failure of a plant.

"Plant the plant in the right conditions," she said. "You have to have the right plant not only for our environment here in the Northeast, but also for the conditions that you're offering."

The experts said that people should remain realistic about what they can plant, and the professionals at each of their garden centers can help guide visitors toward making the right choices.

"There definitely are plants that are easier to grow than others," Bosco said. "Native plants are typically easier. Once you start getting into specialties and perennials, those would usually need special fertilizers."

"If you're specifically looking at gardens, tomatoes are easy. If you're doing perennials, hostas are easy. Most trees and shrubs are relatively

easy to grow," Woods said. "It's really about proper depth and proper after-care."

Most importantly, all three of the plant experts encourage those who believe they have a "black thumb" to ask questions at their local gardening center.

"We have people here who can help with any of those questions," Woods said. "People can always come by and get help." **WL**

Stonehedge Landscaping and Garden Center is located at 1616 Willard Ave., Newington. They can be reached at 860-667-1158 or online at www.stonehedgegardeningco.com.

Bosco's Garden Center and Landscaping is located at 1376 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. They can be reached at 860-658-2428 or online at www.boscogardencenters.com.

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The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home welcomed its third generation of Sullivans with Brendan Sullivan, right, joining the business run by his father Tom, center, and uncle Kevin, left. They are shown with a new picture of the family's patriarch, the late Robert Sullivan Sr., who helped to establish the business.

Photo by Allie Rivera

All in the family

Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home welcomes third generation to the family business

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Business and family go hand in hand at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home. The establishment recently welcomed the third generation of Sullivans into the fold.

Farley-Sullivan has a long history as a family owned and operated business. Opened in 1943 by Thomas F. and Marguerite Farley, the original funeral home was located on Webster Street in Hartford. Only four years after opening, however, Thomas Farley died in an auto accident.

Unwilling to give up the business, his wife continued to run the funeral home, hiring a small team

of employees to help her including the newly licensed Robert Sullivan Sr. Bob, as he was known, took on the role of managing the operation.

After Marguerite's death in 1964, he continued to run the business and eventually acquired sole ownership. With the help of his wife, Pat, the Sullivan family began full management of the funeral home.

"We pretty much grew up in it," his son Kevin Sullivan said.

"As kids, we always helped out there," his brother, Tom Sullivan, added. "We were never allowed to go into the private areas, but we helped around where we could, washing cars, transferring flower arrangements, things like that."

As Kevin, Tom and their eldest

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brother Robert Sullivan Jr., known as Bobby, grew older, they began to take on even greater roles. Bobby was the first in the family to graduate from the American Academy-McAllister Institute of Mortuary Science in New York City in 1970 and he soon joined the business.

A few years later, Kevin followed in his brother's footsteps and graduated from the same program. Tom attended Briarwood College in Southington.

Bob acquired the Sullivan Funeral Home of Glastonbury in 1977, which at the time was no relation to the Hartford facility. With Kevin settling in Glastonbury with his family, the purchase was an obvious choice.

With the addition of three children helping to run things, the business outgrew its Hartford location. They moved to their current facility in 1966, a new

According to his father, Brendan has always possessed the characteristics of a funeral director. But he was still surprised to hear that his son wanted to join the business.

"We didn't see it coming, but we also weren't surprised when it happened," Tom said. "There's 10 grandchildren in his generation and in our family nobody was ever pressured into the business. We always felt he did have the personality for it, though."

Following in his uncles' footsteps, Brendan began attending AAMI, graduating in December 2016. He passed his state and national board examinations and is currently completing his apprenticeship before fully joining the firm.

"We are and we always have been a family run place," Tom said. "At some point during a service, they're going to be dealing with someone they know. With him

**"With him coming in now,
it's going to continue on for a
whole other generation."**

-Tom Sullivan

11,000-square-foot building on Beaver Road.

"It was a good fit and it made sense for us to come here," Kevin said.

By the time this location opened each of the brothers had moved out of Hartford. While Kevin remained in Glastonbury, Tom moved his family to Rocky Hill and Bobby settled in Wethersfield.

"Our brother Bobby was one of those guys that everybody knew. He was a very well-liked guy. So was our father," Tom said.

Bob Sr. died in 2005. Bobby died in 2013.

While all of their fathers were part of the funeral business, the next generation had a slightly different experience than Bobby, Kevin and Tom.

"I didn't grow up in it as much as they did," Tom's son, Brendan Sullivan, said. "In high school I used to help my father out sometimes, but that was really it."

After graduating from Rocky Hill High School in 2013, he began thinking about his future career prospects and soon found himself drawn to the family business.

"I just decided this was my true calling," he said.

coming in now, it's going to continue on for a whole other generation."

That familial aspect is part of what the Sullivans believe has kept them in business for so long.

"I think what's important for families is that you always see a familiar and friendly face," Brendan said. "Because of our situation, we are able to tailor and cater each service for every family."

He is excited to join the business full time and bring to it his own knowledge and expertise.

"The world is changing and I'd like to bring some modern ideas to it," he said. "It's going to be the same business. In terms of service, I don't plan to change a thing, but maybe modernizing some things."

With Brendan coming aboard as the third generation of Sullivans, Kevin and Tom said they are proud to see what their father helped to establish continuing on.

"We plan on being a family owned and operated business for years to come," Kevin said. **WL**

The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home is located at 34 Beaver Road. Its Glastonbury location is 50 Naubuc Ave. Call 860-563-9999 or go online at farleysullivan.com.

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Photo by Mark Jahne

These chicken sandwiches and potato tots are baked, not fried, and breaded with whole grain.

Feeding them well

Chartwells focuses on good food and healthy ingredients

by Mark Jahne
 Editor

The challenge is to feed hundreds of children of all ages five days a week. The meals have to be tasty, but they also have to be nutritious and meet federal and state government guidelines.

Enter Joanna Morillo. She recently came to town to serve as the resident dietitian for Chartwells, the private company that contracts with the town to feed the children in the Wethersfield Public Schools Monday through Friday.

Chartwells, part of an international company called the Compass Group, provides similar services for Corpus Christi School, the CREC Discovery Academy and CREC Soundbridge.

"I used to be a pastry chef," Morillo said. "We do tastings in the cafeterias. Chartwells does monthly tastings. Every school has its own kitchen."

That gives the company an

idea of what the students will and will not eat. Menus are different because a teenager's tastes are not the same as a first-grader's, for example. The staff is always looking for feedback.

Morillo said they not only cook with herbs and spices but teach the students how to do the same. She works in partnership with Jamie Davis, the food service director for the company.

"I'll do classroom education sometimes," she said. "I can do stuff with community wellness. I'm working with the Hunger Action Team."

That team is a community organization facilitated by Foodshare that seeks to help those in town who do not have enough to eat.

Morillo and the Chartwells staff also do whatever they can to offer food that is gluten free and culturally relevant. There are protocols in place to protect students who have allergies to certain foods, such as peanuts, from getting sick.



The cafeteria at the high school has fruits and vegetables at nearly every food station.

The middle and high schools are set up with food stations while the elementary schools feature a more traditional cafeteria approach. Certain foods are ordered well in advance to take advantage of USDA commodity price discounts.

Just like all other food operations in town, the school kitchens are inspected by sanitarians from the Central Connecticut Health District to ensure cleanliness and proper food preparation practices. "I like to think of planning the



Photos by Mark Jahne

"We do about 500 breakfasts and about 2,300 lunches a day."

—Jamie Davis

Jamie Davis, Chartwells food service director for its contract with the Wethersfield Public Schools, prepares to remove a pizza from the oven in the newly renovated and equipped kitchen. With him is Joanna Morillo, a company dietitian assigned to this town.

whole day," Morillo said. "We give them a wide variety of fruits and vegetables to choose from," she said.

Students are allowed to take an unlimited supply of those two food groups.

Secondary school students can

select a daily entrée or other options such as a salad or perhaps a deli sandwich with yogurt. Many a la carte items are available to please any taste. The sandwich area offers lots of different vegetables that can be added as desired.



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There's a pizza station at the high school, but it's as healthy a pizza as one is likely to find.

Davis and Morillo said any pizza served in the schools must have a whole-grain crust and the cheese must be low fat and low sodium. Sugar, fat and sodium restrictions are abundant on numerous food items.

There are no sugar-filled juices or sodas to be found. Milk is served in the elementary schools only. Silas Deane and the high school feature all-natural juice, water and sparkling waters.

"The chicken nuggets you see at the elementary schools are not the same chicken nuggets you see at McDonald's," Davis said.

The school version is baked, not fried, and has a whole grain outer crust.

"School food today is a lot different. Everything has to be whole grain, rice has to be brown rice," Davis said. "It's more fresh fruits and vegetables as opposed to canned and frozen. We're very fortunate in Wethersfield that each school has its own fully functioning kitchen."

He is hoping to launch a pilot project at Charles Wright School

that would direct unused food to the town's food pantry. Davis compared the high school cafeteria to a college dining hall.

"This kitchen is unbelievable," he said.

The furnishings and equipment are new and there is copious work-space. There is also plenty of room for storage.

The stations offer pizza, a hot entrée or two of the day, sandwiches, southwestern cuisine, salads, "grab and go" items and more. The menu changes daily and seasonal foods are featured. Sometimes there is a theme day.

Davis, whose job it is to oversee the food served in all of the schools, attended culinary school. He was a corporate chef as well as a chef in restaurant, hotel and casino settings.

"We do about 500 breakfasts and about 2,300 lunches a day," he said.

All of those students can't fit into the cafeterias at the same time so lunch is served in waves. There are two at the high school and as many as six at the elementary schools.

There are a total of 32

Chartwells employees in town. Twelve are at the high school, five at the middle school and at least two at each elementary school. Many of them also have culinary backgrounds.

High school students can use an app on their smart phones to check

the daily menu. It provides them with nutritional information about that day's offerings and any allergens that may be part of the items awaiting them.

Like Morillo, Davis sometimes visits the classrooms around the district to talk about nutrition. **WL**



Photo by Mark Janne

The deli sandwich station at WHS uses restaurant quality and brand-name meats.

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Eagle Scout project benefits turtles

Courtesy photos

Members of Wethersfield Boy Scout Troops 50 and 85 spent a day of their April vacation working on an Eagle Scout project for Michael Ruetz. They created a turtle enclosure for the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center on Prospect Street. Tom Linden, lifetime resident and a Friends of the Nature Center member, assisted. Supplies were donated by the Friends of the Nature Center.



Michael Ruetz decided to construct a turtle enclosure as part of his efforts to become an Eagle Scout.



Michael Ruetz works on the turtle enclosure.



Joey Buysse, Michael Ruetz, Gavin Lippitt, Alex Kanya, Rowen and James O'Connor all came to help.

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Tom Linden, a Friends of the Nature Center member, assists with the project.



The boys assemble the floor of the turtle enclosure.



Alex Kanya and Michael Ruetz working side by side.

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Bicycle riding is gaining popularity in town. Three passionate proponents of this activity are, from left, Rob O'Connor, Thomas Brown and Kevin Sullivan.

Photo by Mark Jahne

Promoting the outdoors

Bicycling and walking advocates inject new energy into local and regional efforts

by Mark Jahne
Editor

When members of the West Hartford Pedestrian & Bicycle Commission scheduled a regional meeting to combine the efforts, dreams and accomplishments of fellow advocates from Greater Hartford, they didn't know what to expect. Perhaps a few folks from another town or two would attend out of curiosity.

What they got was an overflow crowd of passionate bicycle riders and walkers who all want to see more done to promote trails and safe streets. People from 15 towns showed up and they formed a new organization called Ride CT.

Wethersfield and Rocky Hill residents were among those in atten-

dance at the March 22 meeting. They made new friends and went home with new ideas and the realization that there is strength in numbers.

They also learned what has already been accomplished in individual communities so that – pardon the pun – they don't have to re-create the wheel.

Kevin Sullivan of Wethersfield was so enthused that he rode his bike from Wethersfield to West Hartford in evening temperatures that were in the 30s. He shares a cycling passion with fellow residents Rob O'Connor and Thomas Brown.

Sullivan, 58, works for the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and commutes to work in Hartford on two wheels whenever possible. He started riding as a child.

"I got serious with commuting

in 1990," he said. "We're all Complete Streets advocates."

Smart Growth America describes Complete Streets as roads that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops and bicycle to work.

O'Connor, who is 56, has also been at least a casual rider for his entire life. He helped form a bicycle advocacy group in South Windsor before moving to Old Wethersfield a few years ago and was instrumental in getting a fourth grade bicycle curriculum into that town's schools.

He is part of Bike Walk Connecticut and also commutes by bicycle to a job in Hartford. It's a shorter and much easier trip now than it was when he lived in South Windsor, but he did it from there as well.

"This is a bike-friendly community without the official designation," he said of Wethersfield. "It's a great place to ride, it's a great place to walk."

He had particular praise for the Folly Brook Trail. O'Connor agreed with Sullivan that one of their primary goals is more roads that meet the Complete Streets criteria.

Another goal is more places

where people can safely park a bicycle because that could help make the town a destination for cyclists from all over the region.

O'Connor is a proponent of bicycle safety training for auto and truck drivers as more people on two wheels share the road with people who have four wheels or more.

"It's not cars versus bikes. We would just like you to see us," Brown said.

Brown added that riding on two wheels allows him to explore the region. He is the faculty adviser to the Wethersfield High School Bicycle Club, formed four years ago.

The club initiated a swap meet that has evolved into a full bicycle festival. This year's event is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. June 11 outside Hanmer School and the adjoining Stillman building.

"We just want to support all the biking and pedestrian activities in town," he said. "I moved here in 2001. At the time, I was a big runner and ran every street in the town."

Brown also volunteers his time and knowledge at Biciro, a community bicycle store and cooperative in Hartford. He looks forward to the completion of the bike and walking path on the Glastonbury side of the Putnam Bridge.



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45 - 110 lbs.	55 - 130 lbs	75 - 155 lbs.	100 - 185 lbs.

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No Weight Restrictions	No Weight Restrictions	No Weight Restrictions

Flag ages determined as of September 1, 2017

A player's age is determined as of December 31st of the playing year. All Children playing Tackle Football must attend sign-ups to be weighed. The CTYFL has mandatory weight and age rules. NO child outside of the weights and ages listed above is eligible to play. Birth Certificates are required for all Children playing and all "A" Squad players must submit a copy of their 4th term report card indicating that they will not be attending High School during the playing year. Any Child who falls outside the weight limit of his/her Tackle Division will be allowed to move up one division provided they are not overweight in that division as well **Cheerleaders are not bound by weight restrictions. ***Flag Football will continue to be an in-town league. It remains unchanged from years past. Please visit us on the web for all up to the minute information.

www.wethersfieldyouthfootball.org

He once rode his bicycle from Wethersfield to New Hampshire.

"My wish is I'd like to see a couple of self-serve bike repair stations," Brown said. "We also want to see the culture of the town be safe."

He has a podcast called Bike Karma that presents positive stories, interviews and skits about living with all kinds of bicycles and people. One of the most recent entries talked about how much he enjoys smelling the aroma of food wafting through the air as he pedals past homes where people are cooking or baking.

"We want to be a ready group to knit things together at the right time when funding becomes available," Sullivan said. "Hartford has a very rich bicycle history. I'm also involved with a group called Cycling Without Age."

That organization started in Denmark and uses special bicycles that resemble rickshaws in which one person pedals and two older people ride along, he explained.

The Rocky Hill tandem of Ed Chiucarello and Paul D'Attilio have separate passions. The former loves to walk and hike and the latter is a cyclist. But they share a passion for making their town a better place for both activities.

"Moving forward, this is the way to set up your community," D'Attilio said.

"I'm the walker. I started Walk Bike Rocky Hill five months ago," Chiucarello said. "The meadows is a great place to walk."

That group already has 66 members as well as a Facebook page. He is one of the volunteer trail managers

who assist the town Parks and Recreation Department and keep an eye on the trails and public parks.

The two men met through Walk Bike Rocky Hill. The group meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month.

"I'm an alternate on the committee for the Plan of Conservation and Development. There are a number of things related to bicycling," Chiucarello said. "The goal is to make Rocky Hill more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. One of the goals is to connect to the river."

"I've been riding my whole life. I used to ride my bike year round," D'Attilio said. "I try to ride off the main roads. I just love riding on my bike. It's one of my favorite things to do."

That's in part because he considers the heavy traffic on Cromwell Avenue and the Silas Deane Highway a safety hazard. He logged 3,000 miles around town this past year.

"I ride solo. A lot of people ride in groups because they feel safer that way," he added.

He has also taken bicycle trips to various places. The two men would like to see the town do some kind of formal assessment of the potential for additional bicycle lanes on local streets.

"The hard work for us is how do we move this forward?" D'Attilio said.

Realtor Julie Lemos of Century 21 Clemens & Sons Realty said towns that are bicycle and pedestrian friendly can add to the value of one's home. She lives in Wethersfield and her office is in Rocky Hill.

"It's something that buyers are looking for," she said. "It's definitely a draw. A lot of them look at

Wethersfield, particularly Old Wethersfield."

That's particularly true with millennials, the largest demographic of home buyers. They decide ahead of time the amenities they want in a community and compare towns to see where those amenities are most prominent.

"It also shows that it's a more progressive community," Lemos said.

She spoke about how popular West Hartford is because of its shops, restaurants and designation as a bicycle-friendly town. She firmly believes that if Rocky Hill and Wethersfield can earn the same designation they would become an even greater attraction for home buyers.

She added that this is also important with clients who are relocating to Greater Hartford from other metropolitan areas. One client selected a Wethersfield home over houses in two other towns because of the bicycling opportunities it offers.

Ann Hartman, assistant director of the Central Connecticut Health District, enjoys riding a bicycle. She's a proponent of walking and cycling as part of good health. The district serves Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.

"This is high on our priority list," she said.

Hartman said the district is already in discussions with town planners to adopt the Complete Streets program.

CCHD wants to see as many streets as possible become safe and friendly places where people can walk and ride. Those who need a bicycle helmet can purchase one from the district for \$10.

"Wethersfield has a bike to school

day coming up," Hartman said.

She pointed out that bicycle riding is good for people who have joint problems, especially knees, because it creates less stress on those joints than other forms of exercise, such as jogging and running.

"It's a family friendly activity. It's a good way for families to interact," she said. "It is purported to raise the property values and it brings some economic vitality to town."

Some people commute to works on bikes. She said that is not only a healthy alternative but it also saves money on gas. Another benefit is that physical activity has been shown to improve brain function.

"There are a plethora of studies that show exercise reduces stress," she added.

Rocky Hill and Wethersfield already have organized biking and walking groups. The Capitol Region Council of Governments has mapped out existing and proposed bicycle/pedestrian paths. Hartman said the health district is a big fan of low-cost ways in which people can become more active.

She sees a direct link between this new advocacy and the CCHD's annual Step Into Summer four-town walking competition. It begins April 30 and continues until June 10. The event was lengthened by two weeks and dates were changed to springtime this year to allow more children to become involved.

People who live or work in its four towns are welcome to participate in this friendly competition. Berlin is the reigning town champion. Register at walkingworks.com or contact Hartman at 860-721-2824. **WL**

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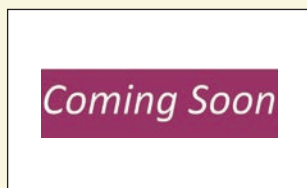
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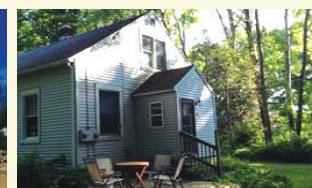
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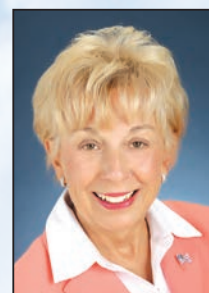
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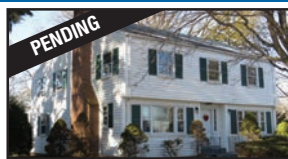
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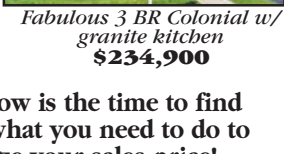
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Courtesy photo



Stemming the crisis

Panelists discuss the growing opioid addiction problem

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Communities across the country are trying to figure out what they can do to halt the rapid rise of opioid addiction that is killing people and bringing families to abject sorrow.

That's why a panel discussion was held the evening of April 10 in the high school auditorium. More than 50 people attended and some of them remarked that the crowd would have been larger if the event had not been scheduled during school vacation week.

Tearful testimonies from two

mothers who lost children to addiction and other parents whose families fought prolonged battles against the scourge of drugs brought a deep sense of reality to the proceedings.

So did their complaints that there is a disconnect between the agencies that were represented and the general public. All of these parents told tales of how much difficulty they experienced trying to identify resources and get treatment for their children.

State Reps. Russell Morin and Antonio Guerrero decided to offer residents a community forum of experts from various fields who

could address the topic so that there would be knowledge of the problem and of the services available to addicts and families.

"There is a serious problem out there with addiction," Guerrero said.

The crisis is affecting cities and suburbs, rich people and poor people, cutting across all ages and all racial and ethnic groups.

Panelists were: Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; Pat Rehmer, president of the Behavioral Health Network and senior vice president of Hartford Health Care and Shawn

Lang, deputy director of AIDS CT.

Also on the panel: Terrence Wain of ASM-Aetna Ambulance; Kimberly Beauregard, a licensed clinical social worker and chief executive officer of InterCommunity Inc., and Ann Hartman, the assistant director of community health for the Central Connecticut Health District.

"This has been a crisis across the country," Delphin-Rittmon said. "But recovery is possible."

She cited a 300 percent increase in opioid addiction over the past 10 years. Heroin and other opioids have surpassed alcohol for the first time as the abused substance of choice,

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Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."**

Emma Lazarus, Statute of Liberty

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“There’s so much attention given to this now because it’s a different segment of the population.”

–Kimberly Beauregard

she said. People who become addicted to prescription medications are replacing it with heroin after those prescriptions run out.

Magnifying the problem is the fact that many drug dealers cut their heroin with fentanyl, another powerful opiate that is coming into this country illegally from China.

Connecticut recorded 917 drug overdoses this past year and the number continues to rise. The solution is often a combination of recovery support and medication assisted treatment, but the latter has a stigma and thus many addicts avoid it.

Rehmer cited statistics indicating that there is a 90 percent chance that young people will not become substance abusers as long as they

are not exposed to tobacco or alcohol prior to the age of 18. She added that only 10 percent of those who are addicted seek treatment.

It takes a minimum of 90 days for a treatment plan to take root and succeed. An option many people may not be aware of is what is called ambulatory treatment, a walk-in type of program.

“People can continue with their lives while they’re in treatment,” Rehmer said. “This is a really serious epidemic that kills people every day.”

Lang encouraged everyone in the audience to make Narcan, an opioid antidote, part of their home medical supplies, adding that it is readily available at most pharmacies. She spoke of some of the risk factors associated with addiction. A major one is returning to society after a period of drug abstinence.

“People are most at risk of overdose when they’re coming out of jail or coming out of treatment,” she said. “We’re training average people in how to recognize an overdose and how to administer Narcan.”

Lang added that anyone with a

legally prescribed opiate is at risk because of the highly addictive nature of these pharmaceuticals. One example she cited is older women who have these opioid medications and take them along with other pills designed to combat anxiety or insomnia.

One of her frustrations is that the actions of many well-intended groups around the state lack coordination.

Hartman said health districts such as the CCHD look at the population as a whole and focus their efforts on prevention. Educational programs need to be offered at early ages and should be based upon proven evidence-based interventions.

Beauregard spoke of the services offered in Greater Hartford by InterCommunity, based in East Hartford.

“We have a full range, from inpatient detox to residential services,” she said. “There’s so much attention given to this now because it’s a different segment of the population.”

Beauregard said 75 percent of heroin addicts are people who started out with a prescription opiate.

She talked about her earlier years in substance abuse and how she is a recovered addict who all too well understands that experience.

“One in five people have mental health or addiction issues. We have to be a recovery-focused system,” she said.

Police Officer Manny Silva was among those who came to hear the program. He said Wethersfield has experienced 22 drug overdoses resulting in four fatalities since January 2016.

Silva also said that 90 percent of the adult substance abusers he arrests started experimenting with marijuana and alcohol while in middle school. Middle school students range in age from 12 to 15.

Those who attended were able to take home a wealth of information from a display table outside the auditorium entrance. Also available were written descriptions of the signs and symptoms of various types of drug abuse, a list of central Connecticut substance abuse walk-in assessment centers and numerous online resources. **WL**

Thank you to the volunteers who helped improve lives for children and families in our community last year.



Clockwise from top left: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) in Enfield, 2016 Year of Caring at South Windsor Child Development Center, Stuff the Bus school supply drive in Hartford, United Way Reader Recognition at Alfred E. Burr School Elementary School in Hartford

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He's a music maker

Wethersfield resident keeps the books and keeps the beat

by Allie Rivera
Staff Writer

Mike Fortunado had no idea that a school assembly during fifth grade would have a huge impact on the rest of his life.

"In elementary school, they brought us into an assembly and there was a band of the teachers," he recalled. "I saw the drummer and I thought, that one's me."

A lifelong Wethersfield resident, Fortunado said the experience quickly shaped what would become a lifelong hobby.

"I used to always get chastised by my teachers for tapping in class," he said with a laugh. "After the assembly, you had to determine what instrument you wanted to learn to play and, of course, out of 100 kids, 70 wanted to be drummers."

Fortunately for him, Fortunado was one of roughly 10 students selected by the music teacher to play the drums. From then on he was hooked. He soon began searching for more opportunities to play.

"I've been in bands since I was in junior high school," he said.

As he continued to hone his craft as a drummer, Fortunado began accepting any opportunity he could to practice and perform, regardless of musical style.

"I was in some new wave bands, some rock bands," he said. "There was one I was in, in New London, called Paisley Jungle. I was in another band just called Bob."

"It was a good opportunity to meet a lot of people," he added with a laugh. "Every one was a little different."

Throughout his time as a student at Wethersfield High School, where he played in both the jazz band and marching band, Fortunado performed in a variety of wedding bands to pay for his college education.

"Those were always fun," he said. "We never had a bad time at a wedding. That was a good way to make some money."

He also spent that time taking gigs in a recording studio and made it

a point to say yes to nearly any opportunity that came his way.

"You never know what could come out of a project," he said.

Fortunado attended the University of Connecticut and studied accounting. After graduating, he began working for a certified public accountant in Farmington. Despite his commitment to his career, he never stopped playing his drum kit, a 1966 black pearl Slingerland, given to him by his grandmother.

"I've replaced some hardware and the cymbals, but the drum is the same," he said. "I've always enjoyed being able to play that set and keep it going."

Fortunado met a group of fellow accountants who shared his passion for playing music during a function of the Connecticut Society of CPAs. They began rehearsing and performing together, eventually calling themselves the Accounting Crows. There was a popular rock 'n' roll band at the time called the Counting Crows.

"We used to play every April 15," Fortunado said with a laugh.

Since then, the group has started playing its 1960s-era rock covers more often, including at accounting conferences across the country as far away as Arizona and California. In Boston, they received an award for best marketing concept.

"We did this really as ambassadors of the Connecticut CPA association," Fortunado said. "We wanted to show that accountants aren't all just a bunch of nerds."

Last year the group performed at Fortunado's alma mater, playing for some of the professors who taught him nearly 25 years ago.

"Mike is by far the sweetest guy in the band," Alan Friedman said.

He is a fellow Accounting Crows member and accountant at Friedman, Kannenberg & Co. PC.

"He's a great drummer and he's a person of few words, but when he says stuff, it's always the funniest stuff that he says."

Never one to limit himself to one group, Fortunado also plays with a band based in Tolland called Out of the Blue.

In addition to his music, his fami-



"We wanted to show that accountants aren't all just a bunch of nerds."

-Mike Fortunado

ly is the most important part of his life. He has been married to his wife Christine for 26 years and speaks fondly of their meeting at the former Comet Diner on Farmington Avenue in Hartford.

"It was a diner upstairs and downstairs was a little dance club," Fortunado recalled of the now-empty building. "A lot of times we joke about buying the place."

The family expanded a few years later with daughters Olivia and Sophie, now 24 and 18 respectively, and music remains an important part of life for the foursome. Olivia, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, is an accomplished concert harp player who now works at the Lincoln Center in New York City. Sophie, a student at the University of Maine, plays the piano and cello and sings.

"She has a very nice voice. She didn't get it from me," Fortunado said with a laugh.

While the entire family is musically inclined, Fortunado joked that there were no hopes of forming a family band.

"It's hard to put together a trio with a harp, a drummer and a cello,"

he said.

Those who know him best say it is not only his talents as a drummer and accountant that make him stand out from the crowd, but his compassion for others.

"He's very civically minded and has had us play for many nonprofit organizations' functions, many of which were in Wethersfield," Friedman said. "He's the kind of guy that would always be one of the first ones to pitch in and help for any cause."

Fortunado is an active member of the UNICO Italian-American club and its bocce league. He has been involved for roughly 15 years and served as past president, helping the organization to raise funds for charitable efforts such as the V Foundation for cancer research.

"He's just an all-around great guy," Friedman said.

Fortunado is excited to have continuing opportunities to play in the area and grateful for the support of his family.

"I've been very lucky to find the bands that I've found," he said, "but I love getting to spend time with my family." **WL**

News roundup



4th Annual Wethersfield Heritage Weekend

Celebrating local heritage

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents its 4th Annual Wethersfield Heritage Weekend May 27-28. This is a collaborative event celebrating Memorial Day, the historical society, Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum and Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre.

Saturday will begin with the annual Memorial Day parade through Old Wethersfield that begins at Cove Park and wends its way along Garden, Church and Main streets, past the reviewing stand on the historic Broad Street Green, ending at the war memorial in the Village Cemetery.

Beginning at 9 a.m., re-enactors from the Second Continental Light Dragoons, Sheldon's Horse, will present the history of the nation's first cavalry unit raised in Wethersfield in

1776 with horsemanship drills, information about the dragoons' spying activities during the Revolutionary War and the important role of women in support of the mounted units.

Doughty's Artillery and the United Train of Artillery will be on hand with drills and cannon firing. The crew of the Raven will discuss marine navigation, privateering and Wethersfield's maritime history.

Farmers' Market returns

The Wethersfield Farmers' Market begins its ninth season May 18. It will take place every Thursday from 3-6 p.m. through Oct. 19 at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave.

More than 30 vendors are on hand to sell their wares each week.



Heritage Weekend Crafters

Special events are also part of the plans. For more information visit wfmarket.org, email info@wethersfieldfarmersmarket.com or join its 3,000 followers at facebook.com/wethersfieldfarmersmarket.

Rotary donates computers

The Rotary Club of Wethersfield/Rocky Hill donated 17 Lenovo laptop computers to the Wethersfield Transition Academy. This technology will help the students learn skills that will enable them to transition more smoothly into adult life.

Fifty percent of the money for these computers was raised by the local club. The remainder came as a matching grant from the Rotary Foundation.

Get out and walk

The Central Connecticut Health District is once again sponsoring a six-week walking competition in the four towns that it serves. It kicks off April 30 and will conclude on June 10.

This free team competition is designed to bring awareness to the importance of healthy and active lifestyles for people of all ages. Register online at walkingworks.com or on its mobile app. CCHD serves Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield.



Dr. Kevin McBride

'Here We Stand'

The Wethersfield Historical Society presents a four-part lecture series during the month of May in commemoration of the 380th anniversary of the Pequot raid on Wethersfield. "Here We Stand" spans more than 500 years of contact and focuses on traditional issues as well as those faced today by indigenous groups living with the legacy of colonialism.

Dr. Kevin McBride speaks about "The Significance of the Wethersfield Raid in the Pequot War" at 7 p.m. May 9 at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. Educator, performer and actor Annawon Weeden makes a "Seven Generations Presentation" at 7 p.m. May 16.

Foraging Walking Tour is Sherry Pocknett's topic at 2 p.m. May 21 and



What a turkey

What a turkey

This wild turkey appears to be more comfortable around people than many others of the breed. Judy Keane photographed it along Broad Street, where it has been causing traffic issues and generally hanging out for hours at a time.

involves a visit to the Great Meadows. She also is the presenter for the final installment called "Strawberry Moon Thanksgiving Celebration" at 7 p.m. May 23.

Tickets may be purchased online at wethersfieldhistory.org or at the Old Academy, 150 Main St. For more information call 860-529-7656.



School supports Lions Club

This is the second year that the Lions Club held vision checks for all elementary school students in Wethersfield. Inspired by its generosity, Emerson-Williams School nurse Linda Ciarcia reached out to colleague Joanne Charbonneau's class to find a way to thank them.

The class encouraged the entire school to collect gently used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses to donate to the Lions Recycle for Sight Program. In just one week's time they collected more than 60

sets of glasses to donate.

View student artwork

The 59th Annual Spring Art Show of creations by students in the Wethersfield Public Schools is on exhibit at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., through May 17. Viewing hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 1-4 p.m.

Deputy fire chief dies

Bjorn Wilson, a deputy chief with the

Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department, died April 5. He joined the department in 1985 as a firefighter assigned to Company 1 on Main Street in Old Wethersfield.

He later served as a company officer at Company 2 on Griswold Road, rising to the rank of captain. Wilson was promoted to deputy chief of apparatus this past August.

Take a historical walk

The Wethersfield Historical Society is once again offering walking tours around Old Wethersfield led by board member Dorene Ciarcia.

All tours are \$5, free to society members and children under 16. Reservations are recommended.

Meet in front of the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St. Tour dates are May 11 and 13, July 6 and 8, Sept. 14 and 16. Thursday tours start at 1 p.m. and Saturday tours start at 10 a.m.

Burying Ground tours with Martha Smart are scheduled at 1 p.m. May 18, June 22, Sept. 7 and Oct. 12 and 10 a.m. May 20, June 24, Sept. 9 and Oct. 14. Meet at the red barn in the First Church parking lot. **WL**



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ROUSEPROPERTIES

Slice of LIFE

photos by Mark Jahne



Enjoying a tasty evening

The Wethersfield Historical Society presented its 12th Annual Taste of Wethersfield fundraiser the evening of April 8 at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center. There was live music, a silent auction, plenty of food, and a variety of wines and craft beers for guests to sample. Nearly 20 vendors participated. **1.** Gathered at one of the wine tables are, from left, Maura and Michael Rell, David Nowak of Famiglia Pasqua Wines, Sanjay "Sammy" Shah of Sammy's Buy Rite Liquors, Jade Douglass and Nayda Hores. **2.** Enjoying the party are longtime friends, from left, Arlene McAuliffe, Dorcas McHugh, Livinia Hudak and Joan Hughes. **3.** Among those on hand representing the historical society were Richard and Nancy Kuzmak and Sandra Cook. **4.** Latisha Tyrseck and John Kocur brought these treats from the Cove Deli. **5.** Roberta Simpson stands alongside one of the silent auction baskets. She is the society's event coordinator. **6.** Mary and Larry Spellacy were among the many residents who came to check out the tasty treats. **7.** Silas the chef welcomes everyone to the event. **8.** Todd and Beverly Lucas enjoyed Saturday night out at the Taste of Wethersfield. **9.** Guests were treated to live music by the Hot Cat Jazz Band while they sampled the food and beverages. **10.** Wethersfield resident Lucenia Rosario, left, invited her friend Sandra Hemphill to the party. **11.** Philip and Geraldene Lohman came to check out the scene. **12.** Sabrina Hoisington and Julia Koulouris brought baked goods and fresh-squeezed berry lemonade from the Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre.



Letters

DECA deserves funding

To the Editor:

Recently, I attended Town Council and Board of Education meetings to try to re-establish \$4,000 that was being cut from a Wethersfield High School academic club. The Distributive Education Club of America is made up of WHS juniors and seniors who are interested in pursuing a business career and/or a business major in college.

The funding that was being cut from the program meant that students who qualified to compete on the national level with projects they had been working on since September would not be able to compete. I was petitioning the Town Council and the Board of Education to reinstate this funding and allow this academic initiative to continue.

Happily for the students, the council and the board worked together and funding was granted. However, while the issue was still up in the air, I experienced

such an amazing and wonderful outpouring of support for these kids from so many members of our Wethersfield community.

When I explained the situation at these meetings and the small amount of money that was needed to rectify the problem, I had multiple strangers walk up to me with their contact information and tell me that if the town didn't pay for the program, then they would personally donate. One resident even told the kids publicly to go visit him at home and he would write them a check if the school wouldn't fund their program.

These are complete strangers to the students in the program. These people opened their hearts and were willing to open their wallets for our kids. I found this so heartwarming and just another reminder of how special our town is.

In a world of uncertainty and mistrust, I am so pleased to live in a town with such great people.

—Lisa Puglielli

Memories from the honorary mayor of Griswoldville

To the Editor:

(Regarding last month's article "They Need Work")

I'm the honorary mayor of Griswoldville, appointed by Wethersfield mayors and the Town Council many years ago. Also one of the founders of the Griswoldville Preservation Association. I personally arranged for the old mill signs with a sign company in Meriden.

The main artist was a William Snow (now deceased) who later moved to Simsbury. My wife and I submitted artwork of old mills that the artist used for the sign. I had help from Peter Gardow to erect the first sign on Griswold Road near Merriman Road.

I wrote to the town engineers and told them what I had done and got an OK. The second sign I erected on Griswold Road near Maple Street. Years later a SNET repair crew

dropped a large cable and knocked the sign down. I contacted the town engineer and he agreed to repair the sign's bracket, paint the post and install it again in the same location.

The third sign was put up by the town maintenance department on the corner of Highland Street and Collier Road. The other signs in the article and photo I had nothing to do with.

Martha Mayer was my neighbor on Griswold Road where I lived for 64 years. Griswoldville history is in good hands with her. As the honorary mayor, I marched in all parades, attended Town Council meetings and was duly recognized as the principal representative of Griswoldville.

I received a letter from the town manager when I moved to Avery Heights advising me I would always be the honorary mayor, no matter where I lived.

—Richard Lasher



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Editorial

Get outside and smell the fresh air

Winter is finally over, not that we had all that bad a season. There were a couple of significant snow storms but, for the most part, the flakes held off and the temperatures didn't plunge all that often.

Then came a rain-soaked April. But as the old folk tale goes, "April showers bring May flowers." We are already starting to see the beauty of nature coming back to life.

No matter how long one has lived in this area, it is still a delight to see the annual renewal that occurs at this time each year. The sun seems brighter, attitudes seem better, everyone seems to have a little more spring in their step.

Speaking of steps, how about getting out of the house or office and taking a bunch of those? Some towns are sponsoring walking contests. But whether there's an organized effort or not, why not take advantage of the good weather by getting a little exercise?

We're not just talking about children and young adults who all too often seem consumed with smart phones and video games. There are plenty of people of all ages who are addicted to their phones, or watch television multiple hours a day, or who just show a lack of motivation to do much of anything.

The human body is designed to move. It is not designed to sit for long periods every day, although school and jobs sometimes leave us no choice. But we can still try.

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food. It can help us sleep.

Science has discovered that exercise produces endorphins that positively affect our cognitive functions and our attitudes and feelings. Think about it – have you ever seen someone jumping up and down yelling "Wow, am I depressed?" Probably not.

In a world where people seem to be losing personal touch with one another, let's strap on some comfortable shoes or sneakers and take a walk. Greet the people you pass on the sidewalk. Wave to folks in their yards. Maybe even make a new friend or two.

If you don't want to walk, ride a bicycle. That's a great

way not only to get some exercise but to travel from place to place in a manner that more closely connects you to your surroundings.

Some folks bike to and from work. That may not be for everyone but it's the ultimate "green" idea. With all of the pills and oils and special programs promising to give us incredible health if we are only willing to part with our money, the tried and true approach is as solid as it ever was.

Watch what you eat and get regular exercise. It's that simple. Here's to celebrating the season by getting out of the house and moving around. **WL**



wethersfield LIFE

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Firefighters enjoy a Beer & Wine Tasting

Courtesy photos



The Wethersfield Volunteer Firefighters Association held a Beer & Wine Tasting event March 23 at the Pitkin Community Center. Proceeds will go to the WVFA Scholarship Fund and the Richard M. Keane Foundation. The WVFA awards scholarships annually to past or present firefighters or their children to help with the costs of higher education. The primary sponsor was Steve Leon of Wine Cellars 4 in Farmington. Approximately 20 vendors provided samples of beer, wine, liquors and specialty products. Close to 70 vendors contributed items to the raffle.

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Where learning is fun

Bringing children to local museums can be great for everybody

by Alicia B. Smith
Associate Editor



One of the favorite spots of children visiting the Noah Webster House & West Hartford Historical Society is the Discovery Space.

Courtesy photos

Kate Ebner, director of educational programs at the Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, looked out her office window to see a couple of children outside having a blast rolling down the hill. It caused her to exclaim how much she loves her job.

For many museum curators, at one time the thought of having young, active, sticky fingered children amongst their collection was enough to cause much agitation. After all, children like to touch things, they like to talk, and they like to run – a mix that could have dreadful consequences for the antiques or priceless pieces on display.

While there certainly must be care and watchful eyes, much has changed for children visiting museums and several local museums are encouraging children to enjoy what they have to offer. Often they are allowed to touch things, dig in the dirt and run around, too.

“Nothing makes me happier than seeing young folks enjoy the museum and property,” Ebner said.

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Children of all ages enjoy learning about open-hearth cooking at Farmington's Stanley-Whitman museum.

She encourages parents to bring their children to the museum at any age, saying it is a great opportunity for them and helps them also learn museum etiquette.

"I really do believe the sooner the better," she said, noting it's a misconception that you shouldn't bring young children to a historical house. "They will learn, they will learn why eyes only and learn about the collection."

Visitors of any age who visit the Hill-Stead will find a home designed by Farmington resident and architect Theodate Pope Riddle in the very first part of the 20th century. The house has original furniture and is well known for its fantastic collection of Impressionist paintings, including those by Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, James M. Whistler and Mary Cassatt. Visitors can also enjoy the parklike grounds, including the

sunken gardens.

While it might not seem like children would have any interest in old furniture or art, Ebner said that is not the case.

Children come to the Hill-Stead to enjoy such programs as storytime, art projects and workshops for school breaks.

"Storytime is for ages 2-4; siblings are welcome. That is a lot of fun because we are making art projects, reading stories together and always make a collection connection," Ebner said. "Even as young as these toddlers, we are bringing them into the historic house and introducing them to bits of information on the collection."

As a way of making the experience more fun for the youngest guests, when they come for a story featuring teddy bears there will be teddy bears throughout

the rooms for the children to find.

The Hill-Stead also features an educational space for younger visitors, which they can visit anytime they come to the museum. The area is also used for specific programs or special events such as First Sundays.

This summer the Hill-Stead will be partnering with the nearby Stanley-Whitman House for the first time. During the last week of their summer workshop, participants spend their morning at the Hill-Stead and the afternoon at the Stanley-Whitman House on High Street in Farmington.

This Colonial style home, built in 1720, is also fun for all ages.

"We are a pretty kid-friendly location," said Joan Zeisner, educational director at the Stanley-Whitman House, adding that the museum will purposely push furniture out of the way to ensure children who visit can explore as much of the home as they would like.

Young guests enjoy working in the garden and as they tour the house, learning about what life was like 300 years ago. Another popular part of visits are the characters guests may meet.

She has seen children have a great time interacting with the museum's volunteers who dress up in period garb.

"They can be pretty convincing," Zeisner said of the characters.

Children can ask them questions and the characters show them how people cooked over a hearth or

played Colonial games.

"The people we introduce to students really existed in Farmington history. They are playing a role we know them to have done in history, be it a patriot, a loyalist or a slave," Zeisner said.

"By learning and meeting these people it helps them to determine for themselves what happened. For me it's the best way for children to learn history, once they have the basics in school, then through the program they can decide for themselves."

Zeisner said some interesting discussions can develop between young guests and the characters they meet.

She encourages parents to bring their young children to the museum before they even start kindergarten.

"This is their heritage and it's becoming increasingly difficult for children and schools to learn history as we once learned it," Zeisner said.

In West Hartford, children can also have a Colonial experience when they visit the Noah Webster House and West Hartford Historical Society.

When young guests are shown what a chamber pot is and what it was used for, the common response is "ewwww," said Beth Sweeney, director of education.

Cooking demonstrations over the hearth get a more positive response.

As with other museums the interactive activities are a big hit. Here children can visit the Discovery



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“We like to share the riches that we know existed 300 years ago; the kids really do get pumped up for it.”

—Beth Sweeney

Center consisting of three rooms that were part of the original house, which is now a hands-on area for children.

Guests can put on costumes depicting the Colonial era, visit the pantry that is filled with imitation foods that colonial people would have eaten and there is a representation of the farm from what it looked like when Noah Webster lived there. Children can also get their hands dirty in the archeological dig area, where they can find replicas of items that were found on the site during an authentic dig.

Children also enjoy the street map that depicts the town roads from the 18th century and comparing it to the modern street map on display.

Whether a student comes to the museum as part of a school

program or with their family, Sweeney said they would get a taste of the past.

“It’s history and we are big history buffs here,” she said.

“We like to share the riches that we know existed 300 years ago; the kids really do get pumped up for it.”

In Wethersfield, the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum on Main Street in Old Wethersfield often hosts school groups and has the occasionally young history buff stop in, too.

Tours of the three colonial-era homes are mostly geared for adults, but guides are quick to share details of 18th century life that will appeal to children.

Like at other historical homes bathroom humor gets a rise out of children and the privy’s are a big



First Sunday at the Hill-Stead offers a wide variety of activities for children.

draw for younger visitors.

“They are fascinated by that,” Cynthia Riccio, education director, said.

“I think more than anything we are flexible,” Riccio said, adding that activities often reserved for school groups can be shared with families who bring their young children to the museum too. For instance there

are several colonial games that children have fun learning how to play.

Riccio said the museum is most appropriate for children in the fifth grade age range, although third graders enjoy it as well.

“Their phones are not out, they are not texting, they are not on social media. They are engaged, which is good. **WL**



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He knows his way around

Thomas Brodowicz fares well in Connecticut Geography Bee

by Mark Jahne
Editor

Question: What country borders both Kenya and Malawi? Or how about which of the following – which of these is not part of the Greater Antilles: Barbados, Cuba or Jamaica?

If you don't know the answers, ask Thomas Brodowicz. He's happy to share his geographic knowledge. Thomas is 11 years old and a sixth grade student at Highcrest School, where his sister Milena is in the third grade. He has a great deal of interest in Geography and recently participated in his second Connecticut Geography Bee.

The event was held several weeks ago at Central Connecticut State University and led by a professor. Thomas was the only student from Wethersfield among the 100 contestants.

It was open to students throughout the state in grades 4-8. They were divided into five groups and asked the same eight questions. He said only seven answered all of the questions correctly; Thomas got seven right and one wrong.

He finished fourth following a tie-breaker round involving 23 students and made it to the final round.

"We had to go through the school first and take a qualifying

test," he said. "One of the categories was current events. You're in a small room with a lot of people ... there's a tension in the room."

His parents Jacek and Kasia Brodowicz were among the audience. Their son first took an interest in this subject when he learned about his paternal grandmother's travels during World War II.

"We were more nervous that he was," his father said.

Thomas' great-grandfather served in the Polish Army and that

**"It was like
a scavenger hunt
to me."**

– Thomas Brodowicz

made him and his family a target when Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics signed a peace treaty at the onset of the war. The two powers – who would later fight each other after Germany broke the treaty – divided Poland between themselves.

The Soviets seized many Poles, including the grandmother, and sent them to forced labor camps in Siberia. Conditions were harsh and at some point she and a few others escaped.

They traveled hundreds of miles through the Soviet Union, ending up in Iran, where British soldiers provided the exhausted and starving refugees with food, water and medical care. They took them to Kenya, an African country and member of the British Empire, where they lived out the remainder of the war in safety.

"When she told me these stories I got really interested," Thomas said. "It was like a scavenger hunt to me."

He wishes more geography was taught in the schools but that is not a major component of the core curriculum. His family is grateful to teacher Ryan Boothroyd for tutoring and encouraging Thomas in this area.

The student also conducts a great deal of research at home and has done some traveling, whetting his appetite to do more.

"I've been to Poland," Thomas said.

A grandfather took him all over the country and taught him about the important historic, religious and cultural sites. He's also been to Canada, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

He hopes to return to the Geography Bee next year when he is a student at Silas Deane Middle School. His parents wish other Wethersfield children were motivated to participate in this event.



Thomas Brodowicz waits to answer a question at the Connecticut Geography Bee.

Geography is not his only interest. Thomas enjoys collecting coins and is active in numerous sports including soccer, golf, swimming, tennis and basketball.

He is involved with Polish Scouting, an activity open to both boys and girls, and studies his ancestral tongue at the Polish Language School at the former Ss. Cyril & Methodius School in Hartford. His mother teaches the sixth grade level there. **WL**

Editor's note: The answer to the first question is Tanzania. The answer to the second question is Barbados.

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I am honored and privileged to be a part of a school that provides amazing opportunities for world travel. Some teachers here offer trips during our winter and spring breaks; the teacher who made the recent winter break trip a reality is a history teacher right here at the high school named Mr. Sand.

He goes to great lengths to make sure each group has a diverse experience while he experiences each group in his own way as well. Mr. Sand is an extraordinary, noble and compassionate human being and I wouldn't have wanted to travel so far away with anyone but him.

Recently, I traveled to the Third World nation of Belize which is located in Central America. I

went during my winter break and stayed for six days with three Wethersfield High School staff members, one high school alumni (who flew in from Australia) and 27 of my peers.

It was, without a doubt, the most life-changing experience I have yet encountered and I am beyond grateful that our group had that chance while still in high school.

Besides vacationing, one of the major motivators of the trip was to visit a local elementary school, donating many school supplies that we collected specifically and brought with us for this group of students.

Being able to witness another school day in another country was eye-opening because I saw extreme differences regarding

finances, or in this case, the lack of, and realize how fortunate we in the U.S. are to have the resources we do.

Another difference between students in Belize versus here is that upon meeting them it was clear that they were very happy to come to school each day and were very eager to learn – even if they were walking a few miles to get to school.

We spent the rest of our time there in adventurous pursuits: climbing ruins and learning about the first settlers of Belize and what they experienced. We were learning things that American students usually study sitting in class, however, we were there in person, able to climb the ruins and see for ourselves magical views at the top.

School trips aren't merely

vacations; rather, they are learning experiences and an overall once-in-a-lifetime chance to travel somewhere one has never been and to experience their culture and how they live day by day.

Another highlight is that we were able to create new bonds with peers we may have never spoken with before and make stronger bonds with our travelling friends that we will always share with one another. These trips showed me how important it is to travel and the fact that our high school offers that for students is a rare and outstanding opportunity that I was extremely fortunate to experience.

Briana Rodriguez

Senior

Wethersfield High School



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Honoring academic achievement

The following students were named to the honor roll for the second trimester at Silas Deane Middle School.

Grade 7 General Honors

Alani Adams, Aliza Aijaz, Olivia Amodeo, Louisa Amoroso-Whittles, Brooke Arnold, Luciana Auteri, Naveen Bangalore, Bruna Barros, James Bellas, Kathryn Bello, Gabrielle Berasi, Brian Bianchi, Cindy Biraci, Luka Bushi, Emma Cabral, Martina Carbone, Heleina Cicero, Antonio Contreras, Adriana Cruz, Abigail D'Agnese, Riley D'Amato, Alanna DePinto, Olivia Dizes, Megan Doshi, Ava Dyjak, Jake Errickson, Chastity Ettienne, Michael Ferris, Jace Fleury, Riley Ford, Jack Freitas, Daniela Generis, Joseph Giarratana, Jeremy Gilbert, Zachary Goodin, Jaden Goodsell, Alexa Grenier, Josh Gstell, Sarah Gurskis, Irma Guster, Kathleen Hattie and Jack Hedstrom.

Also, Adele Hong, Emmeline Hong, Valerie Huaqui, Kayley Jordan, Kaitlyn Karanian, Robert Kennedy, Andrew Knapp, Jack Kulpa, Maxfield Langdon, Mindy Le, Kade Lippitt, Lola Lombardo, Zoe Martin, Shane Mazur, William McCarter, Andrew McDonough, Emily Miller, Julia Miller, Henry Misseri, William Monroe, Cooper Moreau, Andrea Moyano, Sheila Muskic, Vivian

Nguyen, Rowan O'Connor, Lillian O'Neil, Lucas Pabon, Colin Pace, Zoe Petropoulos, Connor Pratt, Anthony Pretter, Tatum Radacsi, Madyson Ramsey, Barry Ren, Maren Riley and Tianna Rivera.

Also, Nyasia Rodriguez, Leonard Rozario, Jacqueline Rushiti, Isaac Santiago, Izaiah Santiago, Gabriela Santos, Charlotte Seitzinger, Sarah Seymour, Fiona Sisson, Meghan Sousa, Holden Speed, Nathan Stabach, Ethan Stearley, Liam Stec, Nicole Strickland, Jack Susca, Connor Swanson, Sophia Sywenkyj, Anissa Tapia, Joseph Tata, Karleigh Tinker, Ethan Torres, Megan Tranberg, Amar Velic, Kenny Vu, Leah Weston, Dylan Wolf and Hao Zhuo.

Grade 7 High Honors

Ella Alger, Naida Alihodzic, Benjamin Baby, Mackenzi Banet, Olivia Barnett, Joseph Bellas, Jessica Bianchi, Molly Bowers, Andrea Buzas, Jaime Condon, Minh Dinh, Sean Dunn, Christian Friedman-Ringwood, Liliana Garcia, Roshini Gopaul, Samuel Gustafson, Ava Heimgartner, Emma Hucks, Alexander Jara, Samuel Johnson, Abigail King, Rita Konjusha, Grace Lisella, Logan Lisella, Olivia Lonski, Emily MacDonald, Emily Messina, Taylor Moran, Alexander Murphy, Ava O'Neil, Evan Partridge, John Pedraza, Mia Popowycz, Caroline Provost,

Tomas Santos, Elizabeth Silver, Claire Sipes, Lena Uccello, Cameryn Wilkinson, Julia Wilson, George Zack and Anisa Zoto.

Grade 8 General Honors

Taylor Adduci, Thomas Aglieco, Adelyne Andino, Crystalee Arroyo, Kevin Avery, Christian Bahouth, Camille Barone, Nadia Baroni, Kyle Beasley, Enea Beda, Ava Bielenda, Cristin Blake, Michael Bobin, Jacob Bradley, Jennifer Breglio, Audrey Buccheri, Sydney Budaj, Juliana Buonopane, Dominic Butler, Stephen Byczko, Adriana Cabrera, Anthony Carbo, Lilliana Cartiera, Morgan Cathcart, Eamon Coggins, Isabella Contreras, Evan Coppa, Danny Cruz, James Darby, Richard Darrell, Madeleine Day, Alecia Dicenso, Mehmedina Duric and Matthew Fletcher.

Also, Owen Gagne, Hadden Gaunt, Hannah Gebhardt, Alexander Ginter, Haylie Gomez, Charles Gray, Meghan Gregorski, Lejla Guster, Anna Hart, John Hart, Erica Hertle, Tiago Huynh, Elma Huzejovic, Rian Jackson, Sierra Judson, Madison King, Nathan Kitson, Annie Klementon, Dylan Knapp, Jacob Kozlowski, Andrew Labbe, John Lisella, Alexandra Lombardo, Nathan Malicki, Adriana Mantilla, Samuele Marchio, Admir Masic, Vincent Milluzzo, Ninell Mnatsakanian, Alison Monroe, Sean Moquin, Ethan Moreschi, Paige Muscillo and Marcus Nieves.

Also, Anis Nurkic, Shiv Patel, Lillian Peak, Owen Pearce, Sequoia Perryman, Lauren Peruta, Shelly Pettengill, Ivan Ren, Veronica Rondinelli, Audra Saladin, Autumn Sankofa, Daniel Scheuermann, Giuliana Serrao, Genna Sharp, Quinn Shive, Ethan Sitler, Jonathan Skowronek, Kathleen Sullivan, Krysta Szymecski, Olivia Szymecski, Olivia Thompson, Jenna Toce, Clare Tonucci, Hayley Troy, Adrianna Uccello, Ana Villagra, Devon Wheelchel, Emily Wolf, Odin Wunder and Zachary Zurzola.

Grade 8 High Honors

Gabriella Amoddio, Kate Anzidei, Meghan Appel, Erin Bankowski, Asmita Bhattarai, Michael Bielak, Sienna Brodeur, Aaron Cholewa, Kendall Cholewa, Erica Christie, Bryce Cox, Sarah Detrick, Alexandria D'Onofrio, Kate Griffin, Sophie Gustafson, Declan Hallinan, Garrett Hart, Kennedy Hill, Emma Klementon, Haley Krawczyk, Carrie Nguyen, Camila Nobre, Ariana Padilla, Dimple Patel, Lindsey Pia, Julia Pitchell, Kayla Platanina, Brian Puglielli, Elizabeth Rich, Madison Righi, Kaitlin Ryan, Ava Sargent, Isabella Taverney, Franco Tomaino, Lorien Touponse, Gabriela Villagra, Victoria Villagra, Taylor Wallowitz, Julia Ward, Riley Wilhelm, Nazanin Zaer, Ella Zagaja and Natalie Zwick. **WL**

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May calendar

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

2 Book Discussion: “Connecticut Made: Homegrown Products by Local Craftsman, Artisans and Purveyors,” 7:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

3 Teen Yoga, 2:45 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Bud and Blossom Garden Club and Home Garden Club of Wethersfield, 7 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St.

4 Teen Tech Thursday, 2:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

6 Gardeners’ Tea Party, noon to 3 p.m., \$25 per person, Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave., 860-690-3804

7 New Age Fair, 10 a.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., 860-568-8617 or myasc.org

8 Understanding Email (Gmail), 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Griswoldville Preservation Association Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., Griswoldville Chapel, 176 Griswold Road

9 Growing Up in the Digital Age, 6:30 p.m., Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., reservations suggested, erica.texeira@wethersfieldct.gov

The Significance of the Wethersfield Raid in the Pequot War, 7 p.m., Keeney Memorial

Cultural Center, 200 Main St., free for Wethersfield Historical Society members, \$5 for others, 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org

10 Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Wethersfield Country Club, 860-721-6200 or wethersfield@sbcglobal.net

11 Caricature Workshop, 6:30 p.m., for teenagers and adults, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

13 Wethersfield Men’s Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Corpus Christi Church parking lot, 601 Silas Deane Highway

Saturday Cinema: “The High and The Mighty,” 1:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

150 Prospect Coffeehouse, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield United Methodist Church, 150 Prospect St., 860-614-5158 or tanjam@comcast.net

16 Art Lecture, “The Value of Slow in Our Lives: Slow Art and the Slow Movement,” 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Academy for the Arts, 431 Hartford Ave., 860-436-9857 or wethersfieldarts.org

17 Teen Star Wars Escape Room, 2:30 or 3:30 p.m., for grades 7-12, registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Annawon Weeden, 7 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., \$15 for Wethersfield Historical Society members, \$20 for others, 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org

19 Live More Stress-less, 6:30 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St.,

860-257-9700 or info@chiro-ct.com

20 Spring Tag Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., First Church Village clubhouse, 117 Wells Road

Kat Kennedy in Concert, 2 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Golden Oldies Concert, 7 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church parish hall, 300 Main St., \$10 at the door

21 Foraging Walking Tour, 2 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org

22 Library Services, 6:30 p.m., registration required, Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

23 GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman’s Club, 6:30 p.m., Jefferson House, 1 John H. Stewart Drive, Newington, 860-310-7015

Cut the Cord, 6:30 p.m., Wethersfield Library, 515 Silas Deane Highway, 860-257-2811 or wethersfieldlibrary.org

Strawberry Moon Thanksgiving Celebration, 7 p.m., Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, 200 Main St., \$20 for Wethersfield Historical Society members, \$25 for others, 860-529-7656 or wethersfieldhistory.org

27 Memorial Day Parade, 9 a.m., Old Wethersfield

Is your club, community organization, school or house of worship holding an event open to the general public? If so, please send us the details for inclusion in our calendar. Email your events to Mark Jahne at mjahne@turleyct.com or mail them to Turley CT Community Publications, 540 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury, CT 06070.

Events *spotlight*

“Cyber Hop” Spring Dance

April 28, 7 p.m.

*Pitkin Community Center
30 Greenfield St.*

860-306-2079 or 860-721-2981

The Friends of the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center present this annual spring fund-raising dance. The night will include music, dancing, a tea cup auction and light refreshments. Bring your own bottle; setups will be provided. Tickets are \$20 per person. To learn more visit friendsofebwnaturecenter.org.

Foxwoods Casino Bus Trip

April 30, 10 a.m.

860-997-1600

mirella.dantonio@raveis.com

The Young Italian-American Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring this casino outing to benefit its scholarship fund. The bus will depart from the commuter lot at the corner of

Wolcott Hill Road and Jordan Lane at 10 a.m. The \$25 fee covers transportation, a meal ticket and more. Checks made payable to YIAA should be sent to Mirella D'Antonio, 28 Bermuda Road, Wethersfield CT 06109.

Gardeners' Tea Party

May 6, noon to 3 p.m.

*Solomon Welles House
220 Hartford Ave.*

860-690-3804

The Home Garden Club of Wethersfield presents this event featuring local author and guest speaker Judith Ivie. Tickets are \$25 and reservations are recommended because seating is limited. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wethersfield Social Services summer camp fund.

Griswoldville Preservation Association Annual Meeting

May 8, 7 p.m.

*Griswoldville Chapel
176 Griswold Road*

The Griswoldville Preservation Association invites all residents of the Griswoldville section of town to its annual meeting at the historic chapel. There will be an election of officers and setting of goals for the next year.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

May 10, 5:30 p.m.

*Wethersfield Country Club
860-721-6200 or wethersfield@sbcglobal.net*

The Wethersfield Chamber of Commerce will once again combine its annual business meeting with a

town awards dinner. The night features a cocktail hour, buffet dinner and cash bar. Advance reservations are required and the cost is \$55 per person.

Art Lecture

May 16, 7:30 p.m.

*Wethersfield Academy
for the Arts*

431 Hartford Ave.

860-436-9857

or wethersfieldarts.org

“The Value of Slow in Our Lives: Slow Art and the Slow Movement” is the topic of this talk by Beverly Pierz, a “slow art facilitator.” She will discuss how people miss out on truly appreciating fine art because the average person spends only 17 seconds in front of a painting. Learn how to spend more enjoyable time in front of that painting and engage in the visual language of art. **WL**

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People notes



John Mutchler, a professional engineer, was named a partner and serves in the Intellectual Property Practice Group at the law firm of Murtha Cullina LLP.

Raegan Light, Deniz Camli-Saunders, Ryan Martinez, Dhanraj Bhoj and Ananya Krishnan earned high honors at the University High School of Science and Engineering.

Faith Burnett was named to the dean's list at Husson University.

Margaret Wolf was named to

the dean's list at Stonehill College.

Several Stonehill College students, including **Kevin Dudley**, sang for Pope Francis as part of a seven-day pilgrimage to Italy for the College Chapel Choir.

Sierra Colon, Justin Jensen, Sabina Mamedova and Samantha Walter received scholarships at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Carling Walsh was named to the dean's list at St. Lawrence University.

Patrick Drake was among the students from Eastern Connecticut State University who took a week-long global field course to Israel, Jordan and the West Bank to learn about the Middle East's various conflicts and history.

John O'Brien was named to the dean's list in Ithaca College's School of Communications.

Taylor Galusha was named to the dean's list at Merrimack College.

Matthew Wilson was named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts.

Andrew Lucibella was named to the dean's list at Loyola University Maryland.

Jacob Zapatka was named to the dean's list at Nichols College.

Matthew Gerarde was initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Pennsylvania State University.

Anthony Bruno, Andrew Cravero, Madeline Fulton, Kelly Hoisl, Analissa Mandile, Michael O'Leary, Jacob Skowronek, Troy Stegman and Meaghan Szilagyi were named to the dean's list at the University of Rhode Island.

Hannah Sisson was named to the dean's list at the Florham campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Sara Aguilar, Alvi Aliaj, Hamoud Alotaibi, Demi Arroyo, Michael Barry, Stephanie Beers, Angela Bell, Bianca Bobadilla, Heather Ciarletto, Adam Clark, Zachary Confalone, Claire Copeland, Robert Fabian, Vincent Fazio, Olivia Fenton, Kacey Friedman, Kaitlin Glynn, Michael Gomez-Hixson, Yoldalis Gutierrez, Rachel Llorens, Cameron McFarlane, Sydney Mercier, Ethan Morris, Arva Nerenxa, Alexander Ranniello, Alexandra Saharek,

James Slayton, Noah Thulen, Alexander Tremblay and Eric Wright were named to the dean's list at the University of Hartford.

Brianna Sawicki earned a spot on the Assumption College softball team.

Whitton DeVaux, Rosely Gonzalez, Timothy Linnartz, Gina Santapaola and Joseph Sottile were named to the dean's list at Springfield College.

Kevin Smith was named to the dean's list at Seton Hall University.

Madison Giolito was named to the dean's list at Johnson and Wales University.

Matthew Ferris and Brianna Gillette were named to the dean's list at Lasell College.

Stephanie Buchas was named to the president's list at Manchester Community College. **WL**

Business notes

Qualidigm, a Wethersfield-based health care quality improvement and consulting company, was selected as one of the 40 best places to work in Connecticut by the Best Companies Group and Hartford Business Journal. **WL**

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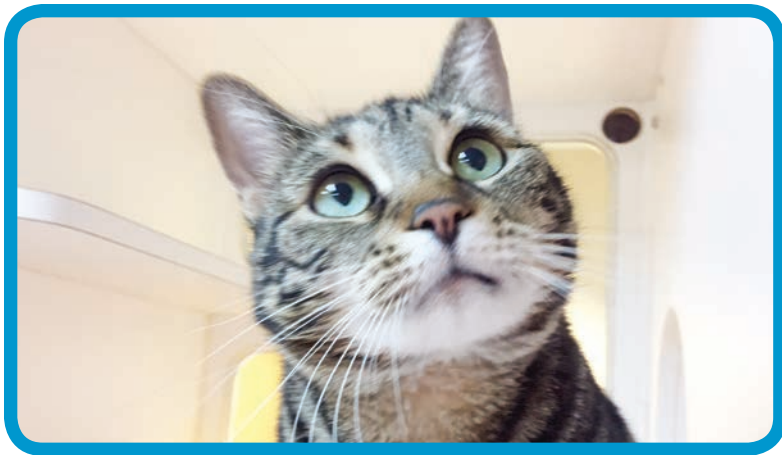
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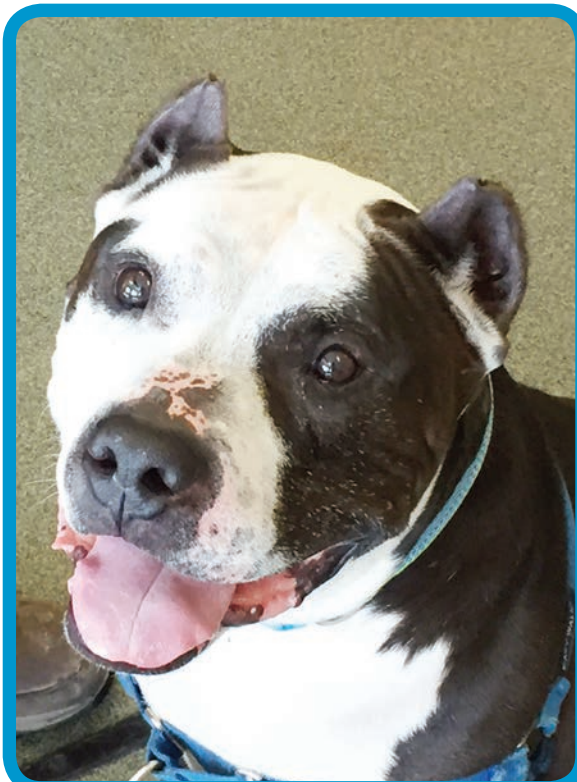
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Bella

Bella is a domestic shorthair with tiger stripe features. She's 6 years old and a typically curious cat. Her ideal home would be a quiet environment with children who are gentle with and respectful of animals. Bella has a moderate energy level and needs to be an indoor cat only; she should not be allowed to roam.

Photos by Alicia Wright



Conrad

Conrad is a friendly terrier and American pit bull mix who is a few months short of his ninth birthday. He's looking for a family that lives in either a single-family home or condominium. He needs to be the only pet and requires a lot of exercise. Any children should be more than 10 years old. The best fit would be a family with prior pet experience.

Inquiries about adoption may be made at the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington. Call 860-594-4500. More information, including videos, can be found online at cthumane.org. Click on "Adopt" and "Newington." The Connecticut Humane Society is a private organization and has no time limits for adoption. WL

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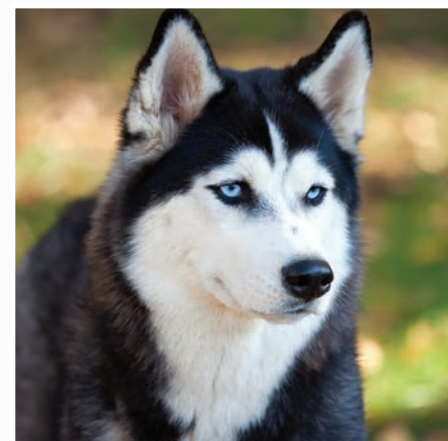
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BY MARK DIXON
WFSB METEOROLOGIST [AMS]



Moon Nicknames

This month, the full moon – or the full “Flower” moon – falls on the 10th. Appropriately named as spring warmth triggers the blossoming of flowers. Native Americans started naming moons to help track the seasons. There was a lot of variability, between regions and tribes – at times

leading to the same moon having more than one name. Over time, the naming was streamlined and applied to the Gregorian calendar.

In January, there is the Wolf Moon as during the month wolves would howl out of hunger. Next, there is the Snow Moon in February, due to the snowy nature of the month. March has the Worm Moon, as the

softening ground allows earthworms to emerge. In April, there is the Pink Moon, not due to the color of the moon but of the ground phlox flower that becomes widespread during spring. June features the Strawberry Moon, as this is the time when harvesting of the fruit typically happens. In July, with bucks growing new antlers, it's the Buck Moon. August has the Sturgeon Moon, as it is

the time to best catch this fish. In September there is the Harvest Moon. With colder months ahead, the Hunter's Moon signals the time to hunt in October. The 11th month of the year has the Beaver Moon, corresponding to the time to set traps. Finally, in December there is the Cold Moon – aptly named for the longer nights and colder temperatures. [WL](#)

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Apply for Instant Approval! See stores for details



PLUS!

With every 4 Tire Purchase

You Choose

4 FREE

Lube, Oil & Filters

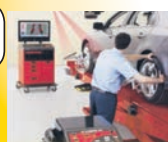


Incl. up to 5 qts Mobil Special 5W30 motor oil, oil filter, lube & courtesy ck. Most Vehicles.

OR

FREE

Front End Alignment



Specialty, Thrust Angle and Complete 4 Wheel Alignments are additional - see store for your vehicle's alignment type.

OR

FREE

Road Hazard Protection



Covers FREE Flat Repairs and Tire Replacement for Road Hazards - See store for full coverage details.

\$20 OFF ANYTHING

Lube, Oil & Filter • Heating • Tune Up
Wiper Blades • Headlights & Bulbs
Coolant Service • Batteries
Shocks/Struts • Brakes • Electrical
Transmission • Alignment • Diagnostic

\$50 OFF ANY SERVICE Over \$200

OR

\$100 OFF ANY SERVICE Over \$400

Present Coupon for savings. Excludes Tire Service and Emissions. Not valid with other discounts. Not combinable. Exp. 5/26/17.

EXPRESS LUBE, OIL & FILTER

\$19.99

Includes up to 5 qts. Mobil Special 5W-30 motor oil, oil filter, lubrication & courtesy check. Most cars.

plus

FREE TIRE ROTATION

Must present coupon. Not valid with any other discounts. Expires 5/26/17. Oil disposal fee add'l.

BRAKE PADS or SHOES

\$99.99

installed, per axle
Most vehicles
Brake systems are complex.

Stop by or call for a convenient appointment to have our experts inspect your system.

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION

Let our staff inspect your brake system.

There may be extra costs for additional parts and labor. Must present coupon. Expires 5/26/17. Not valid with any other discounts.

SPRING CAR CARE

- Brake Inspection
- Standard 5 qt. oil change & filter
- Tire Rotation and Air Pressure Set
- Battery Test -- Underhood fluid check
- Courtesy check of lights, belts, wipers, suspension, filters and more.

\$29.99

Must present coupon for savings. Most cars and light trucks. Expires 5/26/17. Not available with other discounts. Oil disposal fee add'l.

MODERN TIRE AND AUTO SERVICE

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860-666-2404

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